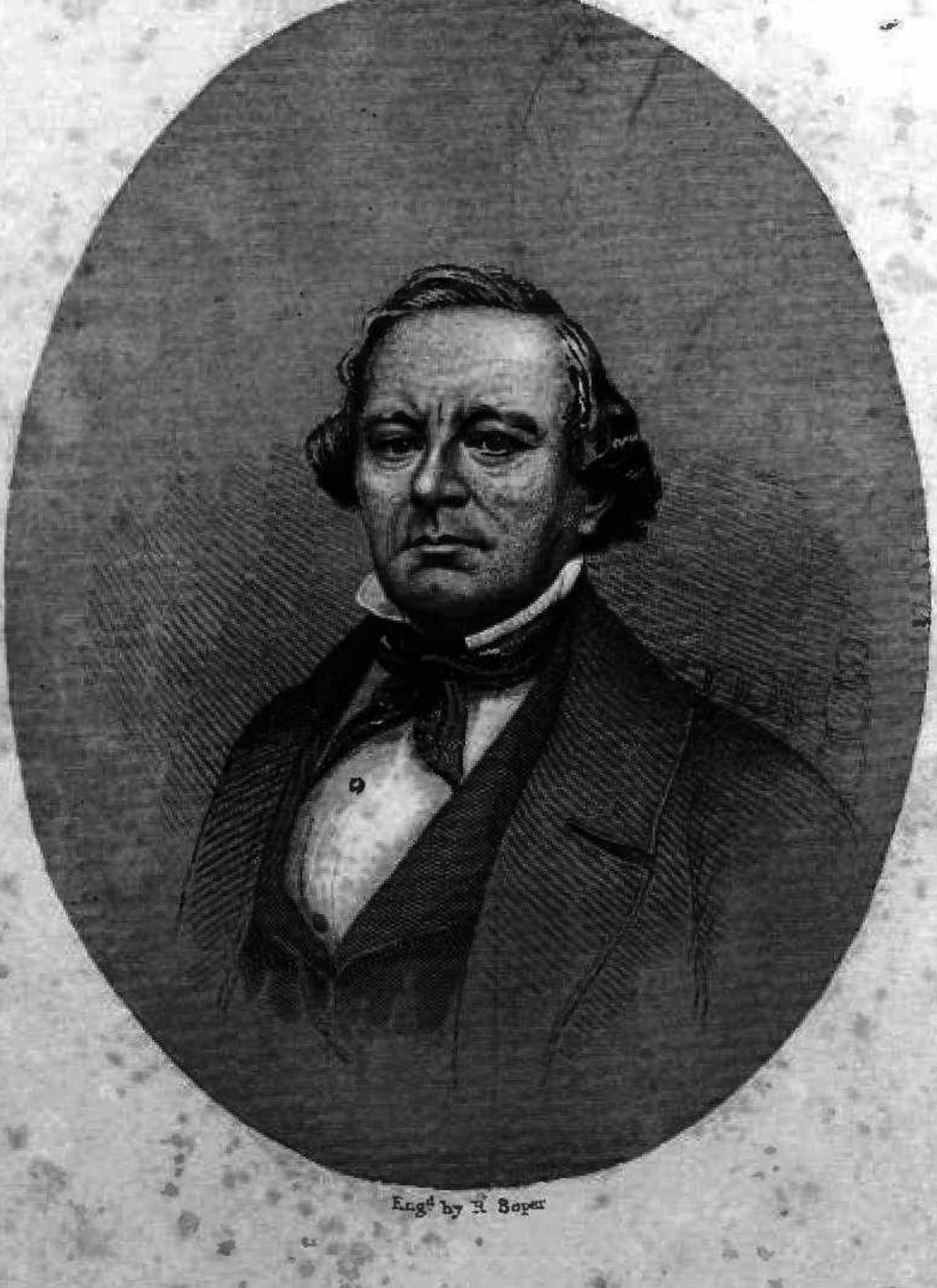

Eng^d by H. Soper

George Fisher.

SECRETARY TO THE CALIFORNIA LAND COMMISSION.

Eng^d for Biographical Sketches of Eminent Americans.

GEORGE FISHER,

SECRETARY AND TRANSLATOR TO THE CALIFORNIA LAND COMMISSION,

Is a native of Hungary, born in the city—called in the "Magyar" tongue Székes-Fehér-Vár, and known in the German as Stuhl Weisenburg—in the month of April, 1795.

This city is about ten German miles S. W. from Buda, the ancient capital of the country, and is now the seat of justice of Fehér-Vár-Vármégye. Besides being the birth-place of the subject of this sketch, it has the honor to claim amongst its sons the renowned Captain John Smith, celebrated for his single-handed conflict with three Turks, whom he slew (in the war between Turkey and Hungary), and subsequently made still more famous by the interposition of the noble Indian maiden, Pocahontas, for his salvation; and among its daughters, if public rumor be true, the devoted wife of Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot.

The father of Mr. F. was, also, a native of the same city, and was a "Polgar" in the Magyar, and "Bürgher" in the German language (which in English means a citizen), and died during the infancy of his son, leaving him little besides his name.

After the decease of his father, he entered the college of Carlowitz, under the auspices of His Excellency, Stephen Stratimirovitch, the Archbishop, and Metropolitan of the Greek church in Austria, *ex-officio* a member of the House of Magnates (House of Lords) of the Hungarian Diet (Parliament), having his Archi-Episcopal See at Carlowitz, in Sclavonia. He was here educated in the tenets of that church, which appear to have been those of his family, and according to their desire, he was to have been devoted to it, by investing him, at the proper age, with holy orders. But Providence had otherwise ordered; and in 1813, becoming wearied with the monotony of student-life, and feeling a decided repugnance to taking orders, he left the college, and joined the revolutionary ranks of Servia, under the command of George Petrovitch—the celebrated "Black George" of history.

Here, at the age of seventeen, commences his adventurous career, which, when we look upon it, forces us to exclaim,

> "Truth is strange—stranger than fiction."

The valor of George Petrovitch and his adherents was not proof, however, against the overwhelming forces of the Sultan; and after the desperate contest of Belgrade, the adventurous lad was driven with the retreating Sclavonians across the Danube, and sought a refuge within the inhospitable confines of Austria.

The Austrian government, to rid itself of men whom it both hated and feared, but dared not slay, authorized the organization of the Sclavonian Legion; and in it the youthful soldier was again enrolled, making with it the celebrated campaign of Italy. But a year had not elapsed, when orders came for the immediate disbanding of the Legion (then far in the interior), leaving the young adventurer again alone, his sword his only

3836

support—his courage his sole capital. With these he made his solitary way along the banks of the Danube, through a part of hostile Turkey, to Adrianople, along the Adriatic, and after many adventures, he again crossed the Austrian frontier, between Landscrone and Mittelwalde, in Austrian and Prussian Silesia; he resolutely pushes on through Breslau, Dresden, Magdeburg, Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen to Amsterdam. Here he determined to try if fortune might not be more propitious in the western world, and embarked on a Dutch ship bound for Philadelphia. He entered the Delaware river in the month of September, 1815, and was detained on board the ship as a redemptionist, which is the term applied to a person liable to be sold for his passage-money. Again his adventurous spirit arose, and being overpowered in an attempt to regain his liberty, he was confined on board until nearly the end of the year, when growing desperate, he with two other companions took possession of the ship's boat, and landing above the city, escaped.

Their landing, nevertheless, attracted the attention of some persons on the shore, who approached them suspiciously, but soon turned back, apparently satisfied, saying to each other, "Fishers!"

It may have appeared strange to some, that the name of Fisher should be borne by one of Slavono-Servian descent, and we may as well inform the reader that it was not the patronymic of the subject of this notice. A poor orphan, escaping from the patronage of a powerful Archbishop, whose zeal for proselytism would have extended any means to have secured the deserter from the church, caused the ardent boy to use only his baptismal name; and afterward when an exile on a foreign shore, just liberating himself from a prison ship, the first word that greeted his ear was that of deliverance—viz., "Fishers," that is, they are fishermen (showing him to be unsuspected and consequently free). It was a pious and a grateful thought that prompted him to take the name (similar to that which governed the preserver of Moses), as an acknowledgment and remembrance of providential preservation.

Mr. George Fisher—for we can safely call him so now—having assumed that name with his adopted country, after struggling through those harassing trials which the stranger only knows, and the stranger with a foreign tongue most keenly feels, but which his iron will and sturdy courage soon overcame, pursued his fortunes to the great West, then, and even now, the proper sphere for spirits such as his; and after many wanderings, selected the State of Mississippi as a residence, and there having declared his intentions, became a citizen of the United States. And when we think upon his early sufferings under Austrian tyranny, we may imagine with what sincerity he threw off all allegiance to foreign potentates.*

In the year 1825, impelled by love of adventure, Mr. Fisher visited the city of Mexico, where he remained until 1830, when he accompanied the Hon. J. R. Poinsett, American Minister, to New Orleans, having been engaged in procuring material for Mr. Poinsett's work on Mexico.

In this same year, after parting with Mr. P. as above, Mr. Fisher repaired to Galveston, Texas (then a Mexican port), where he received the appointment of collector of customs. This position he held until 1832, and it was during his administration of that department that the germ was placed, from which a few years later sprung the tree which is now yielding such abundant fruit to the American Republic of the North; and, as one of the consequences of its growth and possession, producing the war which shook the golden apple of California into her lap.

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*State of Mississippi, County of Claiborne, Circuit court, April term, 1822.

When Mr. Fisher resigned his collectorship at Galveston, he proceeded to Matamoros, where he was engaged in various offices under the Mexican government—having been commissary general, collector and comptroller of customs, &c., &c.—until the autumn of 1834, when he retired to private life. But his active mind could not long lie dormant, and to employ it he became the editor and publisher of a democratic newspaper in the Spanish language, called the "Mercurio del Puerto de Matamoros."*

His journal appears to have been too liberal for the "powers that *were;*" and to exemplify this we will copy from a long article published in the "Mercurio," No. 24, 16th April, 1835, under the head of "Communicados," the following significant words, addressed by Mr. Fisher, for himself and associates, to General Martin Perfecto de Cós, Commandante General of the Eastern Internal States; they are part of a reply to a communication from General Cós, in which he accuses the Mercury of diverting the attention of the supreme government (of Mexico) with "odious and noisy questions." "In such circumstances as these," says the Mercury, referring to the conduct of Vital Fernandez, the Governor, and Lojero, political Chief of the Department, "in which Tamaulipas is placed, being only subject to the insolence of a TYRANT, there are but *two* ways left for her to pursue. . . . . . . You know them both, and you see that the *worst one* against tyranny has *not* been adopted; a remonstrance has been made to government, and yet the people have not resorted to extremity." This plainly worded article concludes with an assurance to the General that the Mercury will always, for the benefit of the people, inculcate ideas to make them *great* and *respectable!*

As a natural consequence Mr. Fisher was banished, and, in keeping with the magnanimous character of his persecutors, allowed but *six days* to leave.

His goods and chattels were then seized and placed at once under the hammer, and before they were even distributed an order was received by the auctioneer for the amount of sales; the net proceeds of which, when handed over, were nine hundred and sixty dollars; one thousand dollars having been expected by the judge, as appears in the official document. And what became of this sum? As shown by another official paper, it was divided among the postmaster, collector, and this greedy judge! Can we wonder that the money was required in such haste from the auctioneer?

With this taste of Mexican justice, Mr. Fisher obeys the order of banishment and sails for New Orleans. He reaches that city when the excitement for the liberation of Texas was at fever heat, and at once lends both heart and hands to the cause. He had resided ten years in Mexico, believing it a republic—had held high offices under the pseudo-democracy—had collected its revenues, and controlled its accounts—placed millions of dollars in their treasury; and yet, for words which could not have been restrained by one of his noble nature, he received a peremptory order to leave the republic (?) within such a time as would hardly have been sufficient to have arranged the affairs of a cordelier, and his property was seized and sacrificed, and the proceeds divided amongst his judge and his accusers.

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*A bound volume thereof deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State of Texas.

But the amount was dearly earned by the Mexican government. Sagacious and observing, Mr. Fisher was more conversant with Mexican politics than his persecutors imagined; and fortunate for him, perhaps, this ignorance on their part, else his order had been to the city of Mexico, under an escort, to have shared the prison with his noble and unfortunate friend Stephen F. Austin.

He discloses the particulars of a contemplated invasion of Texas by Mexico, shows that Santa Anna had long been making preparations for that purpose, but cheered the hearts of his hearers by prophesying a successful issue to the Texans; and that a proof of his military genius might not be wanting, he then pointed out the course which did subsequently lead to the battle of San Jacinto and the capture of Santa Anna and Cós.

Nor were words the only aid and comfort given; for when the storm thickened, and ballast was needed to keep the ship upright when its force should strike, his means were freely tendered. At the critical moment he was on deck—his encouraging voice heard—his powerful arm felt; and when the gale had lulled, but the vexed waves still tossed the straining vessel, he was amongst the first to see the necessity of lashing the little barque to the larger ship, that she might repair damages under her lee. Perhaps we deal too largely in metaphor—in plain prose, then, Mr. Fisher, upon his arrival in New Orleans, was liberal towards the cause of Texas. Robbed as he had been, he gave what he had, and like the widow's mite it was blessed. When the war broke out he was active in the field, and his military talents came opportunely into play.

He brought with him from Matamoros an invitation from the governor of Tamaulipas, to General José Antonio Mexia, to join him in taking the field against the usurping administration of Santa Anna, accompanied that general in his descent upon Tampico, and is honorably mentioned by him.*

Hon. S. F. Austin, the founder of Texas, a man whose good word was valuable, writes to Mr. Fisher thus: "The only time to try friendship is when a man is in misfortune and persecuted by *powerful* enemies as I am. You have interested yourself for me, *even at the risk of injury yourself.* I wish my family to know this; they will not *forget it.*"

The lamented John L. Stephens makes a very favorable mention of Mr. Fisher in his "Travels in Yucatan." He styles him "the citizen of the world," and properly too, as the foregoing pages testify; he describes his various adventures more graphically than we dare attempt; and was there no other record than that of the talented traveller, it would alone have been sufficient to have sent his name down to posterity.

But Mr. Stephens was not writing his biography, and of course had no occasion to set down more than was immediately apparent to himself. We allude at present to Mr. Stephens's derivation of Mr. Fisher's name, and to correct an error which appears in his work (not Mr. Stephens's error, however, as we will explain, but still an error), which we have no doubt the subject of our sketch will be proud to see set right, even by the hands of his self-appointed biographer; for

> ——"Good name in man or woman
> Is the immediate jewel of the soul;"

and no one can appreciate the sentiment better than Mr. Fisher.

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*See "Memorials of Geo. Fisher," presented to the 4th and 5th Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1839 and 1840.

We have previously stated that he adopted the name of Fisher from the fact of his having been mistaken for a fisherman on his escape from the Dutch ship. This is true; he did assume the name as we relate. But Mr. Stephens says, "His Sclavonian name is 'RIBAR,' which in the German language means a 'fisher,' " &c., &c. Now Mr. Stephens was correct, as far as he had been informed, Mr. Fisher having been his informant; but the reason why he gave him this name and derivation, was because it was not then expedient to reveal the whole truth in relation to his name, and his statement could not injure Mr. S., whilst it shielded himself.

It will be remembered, on his first departure from his native land, when he renounced the authority of the Archbishop, he declined the name he then bore. In that memorable but unfortunate campaign, ending in the decisive battle of Belgrade, in which the Servians under George Petrovitch were defeated, he was compelled to pass as a Turkish subject, otherwise he would not have been allowed to have left the Austrian territory; and as it had then become his fixed intention to seek a safer home in America, he was forced to resort to some stratagem to successfully carry out his project. Hence the necessity of assuming the title of a Turkish subject, which sided still better with his views, as his forefathers had been under the rule of Turkey; and the Slavono-Servian language having been his vernacular, he could easily pass as a Servian and a subject of the Grand Sultan; and this is why he gave the name of "Ribar" to Mr. Stephens.

To quote from Mr. Stephens in relation to his meeting with Mr. Fisher: "He was of course at home in the politics of Yucatan, as he had some little personal interest in watching them closely; for should Santa Anna regain the ascendancy, the climate would be altogether too warm for him." Which fully accounts for Mr. Fisher's desire not to be traced through any name known to his enemies; and thus we hope we have satisfactorily explained any difference that may have appeared between our humble sketch and Mr. Stephens's statement. Mr. Fisher is heart and soul a Texan. With his strong instincts, he bears towards the country he has assisted to make free a feeling akin to paternity. He had resided in Texas under Mexican mismanagement; and, as we have seen, first planted the seeds of revolution at Galveston. From Matamoros he was banished for upholding democratic principles, and at the sacrifice of his interests, personal liberty, ay, even at the risk of his life, striving to make a people great and prosperous, by making them FREE.

From the first tap of the rappel, which called the oppressed Texans to arms, to the joy-notes which proclaimed them free and independent, Mr. Fisher never wavered. Throughout that long and doubtful struggle he never faltered, and when the alarms of war had ceased, and bright-eyed Peace went smiling o'er the land, Texas was still the object of his care, and continued to be until he had the satisfaction of beholding the Lone Star mingling its beams in the constellation—the lost Pleiad restored!

To effect this his pen was not idle; and from his midnight lamp, when others sought repose, he issued breathing thoughts and burning words, which, through the columns of the southern and western press, have taken the hearts of the people, and were as useful in procuring the election of Mr. Polk, and consequently the annexation of his adopted State, as any other means.*

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*Vide, inter alia, "MADISONIAN," published at Washington, D. C., February 5, 1844—Second page, 4th column—Correspondence from Houston, Texas, by Geo. Fisher—Nat. Intelligencer Office, Washington, D. C.

We have called Mr. Fisher a Texan, and with reason; for if any one has a right to that title, it is the subject of this notice. His history is embodied in the history of that country from its infancy to the present day. When its affairs became settled, Mr. Fisher commenced the practice of law at Houston, with license from the Supreme Court of the republic. He has acted in various capacities in civil authority; has filled the offices of justice of the peace, county judge, recorder of the city, notary public, commissioner of deeds for almost every State in the Union, &c., &c., &c. From 1846 to 1848 he was translator and keeper of the Spanish records of the General Land Office of Texas, having been previously interpreter to the Convention for framing the State Constitution.

Prior to its annexation he was at various times interpreter and translator to the Senate of the republic, holding the same position when it became a State.

In the year 1851 Mr. F. went to Panama to engage in commercial pursuits, and there he has, on many occasions, rendered important services to the authorities, in assisting to quell those disturbances inseparable from the condition of a mixed and shifting population; and in more than one instance has his life been in danger in his interference to prevent bloodshed between Americans and natives—his coolness and address favoring him with both parties, whilst his knowledge of the Spanish language gave him authority with the natives.*

Mr. Fisher is a member in high repute of the Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons. He was initiated in 1818, and in 1823 became a Royal Arch Mason. Zealous in everything he undertakes, he was active in establishing lodges, a grand lodge, chapter, and grand chapter in the city of Mexico in 1825, being assisted by the Hon. J. R. Poinsett, American Minister, and Governor Vidal, formerly of Louisiana. In Texas he assisted, in conjunction with Generals Sam Houston and Thomas J. Rusk, in forming lodges and a grand lodge as early as 1837.†

At Panama (N. G.) he was also the originator of a lodge, and, if we are correctly informed, holds an exalted position in different lodges in California.

With the exception of a few, whose lives have been devoted to scholastic pursuits, Mr. F. is conversant with more languages than almost any other man, and is perhaps the best linguist living. He is a Greek and Latin scholar, and in addition to a knowledge of the Russian, Polish, Bohemian, Moravian, Slovack, Croatian, Dalmatian, and the language of the Montenegrini, speaks with fluency the following tongues: his vernacular, the Slavono-Servian, the Hungarian or "Magyar," the German, the English, the Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Italian.

With all these accomplishments—with all these honors—having in less than fifty years undergone more than fifty ordinary men of greater age, he remains a plain, unassuming, active gentleman, unpretentious of fame, and only anxious to have his name descend untarnished to his children; and as a proof of this he is now quietly performing the arduous duties of Secretary of the Board of Land Commissioners to ascertain and settle the private land claims in California, and *ex officio* interpreter of said board, its translator, and keeper of its archives.

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*Vide "Panama Echo" of June, 1850; "Riot at Panama, N. G."

†Past Grand Secretary of Texas, 1838 and 1839.

MEMORIALS

OF

GEORGE FISHER,

LATE SECRETARY TO THE EXPEDITION

OF

Gen. JOSE ANTONIO MEXIA,

AGAINST TAMPICO, IN NOVEMBER,

1835.

PRESENTED TO THE FOURTH AND FIFTH CONGRESSES

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS,

PRAYING FOR RELIEF

IN FAVOR OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SAID EXPEDITION.

Valuable—
T976.4
F53

HOUSTON:
PRINTED AT THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE
1840.

3836

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

A.—PETITION, of 12th November, 1840,

B.—MEMORIAL, of 22d October, 1839.

C.—EXPLANATORY REMARKS, addressed to the "Committee on Military Affairs" of the House of Representatives, in relation to the MEMORIAL of 22d October, 1839; accompanied by 15 DOCUMENTS.

D.—DOCUMENTS, (Collection of,) relative to the Expedition of Gen. Jose Antonio Mexia, against Tampico, in November, 1835; compiled by Geo Fisher, Secretary of the Expedition, from the Originals on file in the State Department of the Republic of Texas; embracing 50 Documents, adduced as evidence to substantiate the facts alleged in the Memorial of 22d October, 1839.

E.—REPORT of the "Committee on Military Affairs" of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas on the Memorial of 22d October, 1839. Dated 10th January, 1840.

(A)

PETITION.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas in Congress assembled:

The Petition of the undersigned most respectfully represents to your Honorable bodies, that on the 22d October, A. D. 1839, petitioner prayed to your Honorable bodies, for himself and in behalf of his associates, for RELIEF,[*] which memorial was introduced in the Honorable the House of Representatives, on the 9th day of December, A. D. 1839, and referred, on the same day, to the committee on "MILITARY AFFAIRS"—that the said committee on the 10th day of January, A. D. 1840, made an "EX PARTE" favorable report thereon,[†] but expressed an opinion that it was not at that particular period expedient to take any further action thereon; thus affording to your humble petitioner a future favorable opportunity to renew his said Memorial, by leaving open to him the doors of Justice for a strict and impartial examination of the merits of his claims upon his country.

Therefore, your Petitioner prays that this memorial, with the accompanying *printed* Documents, which are hereunto annexed in a pamphlet form and are made a part and parcel of this petition, be referred to a committee for investigation and a report thereon. And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

GEO. FISHER.

Houston, 12th November, A. D. 1840.

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[*] See Documents marked B. and C.

[†] See Document marked E.

[B]

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas in Congress assembled:

The Memorial of the undersigned, for himself and in behalf of the surviving members of the Expedition of the late General Jose Antonio Mexia, in the fall of 1835, against Tampico, combatting against the usurpation of our Liberties secured by the Mexican Constitution of 1824, respectfully sheweth:—That he, with his said associates, embarked in the City of New Orleans, on the 6th day of November, 1835, upon the aforesaid Expedition with the view and intention of rendering assistance in the darkest hour of our struggle for those liberties which we now enjoy, in consequence of the achievements of our glorious Revolution: and that the said Expedition was fitted out in part and controlled *entirely* by the "Committee on Texas Affairs," appointed by a numerous and respectable meeting of the citizens of New Orleans, of which William Christy, Esq., was the presiding officer, as will more fully appear by reference to the Documentary testimony, herewith accompanying, compiled by this memorialist, from the documents on file in the State Department, and which petitioner prays to be made a part and parcel of this, his Memorial.

By a careful perusal and investigation of the same, your Honorable bodies will perceive that the members of the aforesaid Expedition, were willing and ready to devote their services and consecrate their blood and their lives to the Liberties of Texas, and had the Committee in New Orleans, in lieu of sending the Expedition to Tampico, directed it to Nacogdoches, Galveston, Velasco, San Antonio, Copano, Matamoros, or any other point, be it on the coast or in the interior of Texas, or beyond the limits of what at *that time* was termed Texas, viz: the River Nueces, or sent them to Vera Cruz or Campechy, they would have, equally with the same readiness, proceeded. Therefore, the direction which the Expedition had taken, did not depend on the will of the members thereof, but on the judgment, foresight, and absolute will of the directors of the said Expedition, viz: "The Committee on Texas Affairs *in New Orleans*:" as an evidence thereof, the petitioner respectfully begs leave to refer your Honorable bodies to the letters of the said Committee, dated on the 20th October and 4th of November, 1835, which are made a part of this petition, as also a part of the documentary testimony above referred to. *

Your Memorialist is firmly convinced, that had he written a historical narative of the aforesaid Expedition, the assertions of which would have been corroborated by the documentary testimony above mentioned, and caused the printing thereof, and the circulation of the same among the members of your Honorable bodies, the fact which he is now endeavoring to establish with his feeble pen, through the medium of a simple memorial, would have been a matter of easy demonstration; but this operation requires labor and expenses beyond the present control of your humble petitioner.

Therefore your petitioner respectfully prays that this his memorial be referred to a Committee for investigation, and a report thereon, by a "RELIEF BILL," in favor of your petitioner and his aforesaid associates, securing to him and them all the benefits and emoluments in regard to pay, and bounty and premium lands, and placing him and them on an equal footing with the other volunteers, who have devoted their services and consecrated their blood and their lives to the cause of Texian liberties, previous to the declaration of our Independence from Mexican thraldom, and such other and further relief as your Honorable bodies may in justice and equity deem expedient to grant on the part of the people of Texas, in accordance with the "*Declaration of the 7th November, A. D.* 1835." † And as in duty bound your petitioner will for ever pray, &c.

GEO. FISHER.

Late Secretary ‡ to the said Expedition, for himself and in behalf of the surviving members thereof.

Houston 22d October, 1839.,

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* See D. Documents Nos. 4. 5 also 7.

† See D Document No. 26, paragraph 3.

‡. See D. Documents No. 28 and 30.

[C]

EXPLANATORY REMARKS

MADE BY

GEORGE FISHER

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS,

RELATIVE TO THE SUBJECT MATTER EMBRACED IN HIS

PETITION IN RELATION TO THE EXPEDITION OF

Gen. JOSE ANTONIO MEXIA,

AGAINST TAMPICO, IN NOVEMBER,

1835,

WITH ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

CITY OF AUSTIN, 14th Dec. 1839.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
OF THE
FOURTH CONGRESS:
1839 AND 1840.

Hon. Gen'l Sam. Houston, Chairman.
" William Lawrence, of Harris County.
" W. M. Williams, of Red River.
" Daniel Rowlett, of Fannin.
" —— Davis, of San Augustine.
" John M. Hansford, of Shelby.
" Joseph L. Bennett, of Montgomery,

EXPLANATORY REMARKS.

The Honorable Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee:

I am under many obligations to you for your kind indulgence in granting me this opportunity of making a few explanatory remarks upon the subject embraced in my petition to the Honorable Congress of the Republic of Texas, which petition is now before you, with the accompanying documents, for your investigation,—Documents, which, although themselves, in some degree, sufficient, from the order in which they are compiled, to elucidate the matter, require, nevertheless, a key or explanation, in as much as they are not compiled with all that precision, necessary to serve as an INDEX to substantiate the assertions to be laid down in a historical narative, arranged in a chronological order, according to the occurrences and the incidents to be related in said historical narrative; for the reasons which I wish now to lay before you, and after a full explanation of the matter, I hope, gentlemen, you will be pleased to grant me your further indulgence, and your kind attention to my subject.

My object, in compiling said documents from the originals on file in the State Department, and from the printed journals of the General Council of the Provisional Government of Texas, was, to introduce them as evidences of my assertions in a historical narrative of the Expedition against Tampico which I contemplated publishing, and to which I designed to attach said documentary testimony in the shape of an Appendix; and in so doing, I have used my best endeavors to preserve a chronological order, according to the dates of the documents, or to the matters to which they relate;—but notwithstanding my most careful and laborious examination of the originals on file, I was not so successful as I anticipated, for many of said documents escaped my observation at the first research, and came to my notice on a subsequent examination of the archives of the State Department. Thus, I have been compelled to place them beyond the order of chronology, which, in the outset, I intended to follow.

In order to throw the necessary light upon the subject, I beg leave, gentlemen, to introduce the same, by giving a short sketch of the history of a part of my own private and public life, which is intimately connected with the subject under consideration. With that view I will here respectfully state:

That in November, 1834, I commenced editing and publishing a weekly newspaper in the City of Matamoras, in the Castillian language, called "MERCURIO DEL PUERTO DE MATAMOROS," in which paper I steadfastly maintained a faithful and bold stand against the usurpation of power by Gen. Santa Anna in defiance of the Constitution of 1824, and acted in conjunction with the then existing authorities of the former States of Tamaulipas, and Coahuila, and Texas, during the difficulties existing between those authorities and Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cós, then Commanding General of the frontier, who at that time was using his best exertions to promote the views of Santa Anna in those territories of the Mexican Republic.*

My opposition, private as a citizen and public as the editor of a *Public Journal*, was destroyed by a mandate from Santa Anna, by which I was *exiled* from the Mexican Republic—my adopted country in common with the citizens of the State of Coahuila and Texas, *at that time;* previous, however, to my exile, I had so combined all the necessary elements for a revolution, to take place in the northern parts of the Mexican Republic, that had my exile not been so precipitated, (for the order to that effect was transmitted by the War Department in Mexico, to General Cós, at Matamoros, by a special express,) I should have been enabled, with the co-operation of my friends in those States, among whom I had sown the seeds of revolution, by means of the "MERCURIO," to bring it to a focus at the latter part of the year 1835, just about the time when Santa Anna was preparing to invade Texas with his innumerable and ruthless hosts, and raised a BARRIER between the Rio Grande and *the mountains in the interior* [La Sierra Madre] like unto the ALPS, which the *soi-disant* NAPOLEON of the WEST would have had to surmount over thousands of *Mexican carcasses*, in order to reach the soil of Texas. But my exile paralysed this anticipated happy

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[*] See C. Documents Nos. 1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14.

success of my nearly twelve months' labors, at the cost of immense personal and pecuniary sacrifices.[*] I was in the month of September, 1835, hurled out of the country,—being allowed only *six days'* time to arrange my business and to adjust and liquidate my accounts, and dispose of my property, which I acquired during a residence of nearly three years in that City. My sacrifices were upwards of $10,000; which fact I can, if necessary, substantiate by satisfactory proofs of persons now living in Texas, and by documentary and authentic evidence. In consequence of the EXPATRIATING MANDATE[†] of the usurping power, I was forced to leave the country, and embarked for New Orleans, where I arrived on the 9th of October, 1835, and where I met various friends, both Americans and Mexico-Texians. A few days after my arrival at New Orleans the friends of Texas and of the Federal Party of the Mexicans, all sustaining the rights and the liberties secured by the Constitution of 1824, after several private deliberations, and maturing the necessary preparatory measures, called a public meeting of the citizens of that City at "Banks' Arcade;" at which meeting Wm. Christy, Esq. was called to the Chair, and James Ramage, Esq., appointed Secretary.[‡] After the meeting was organised, Mr. Christy, in explaining the object of the same, called on me to make an "Exposé" of the political situation of Mexico, and relate the circumstances connected with my Exile—also the prospective political views of Santa Anna,—likewise the measures adopted by the Government of Mexico to subjugate Texas, and the other States or parts of States, which yet held out for the Federation.

Although not having been accustomad to public speaking, I made an effort to comply with the request of Mr. Christy, by laying before the meeting a statement of the facts, connected with and relating to the points embraced in the said request, which statement or "ADDRESS," was published in the New Orleans Bee of the 14th October, 1835—an extract of which publication is hereunto annexed.[§]

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[*] See C. Documents Nos. 6, 7, and 8.

[†] See C. Document No. 5.

[‡] See C. Document 9, paragraph 1 and 2.

[§] See C. Document, No. 9, paragraph 3.

During the delivery of my address, and those of Mr. Schmidt and Santangelo, the committee appointed by said meeting, having retired previously to a separate apartment, drafted certain resolutions, and, having concluded the same, reported them to the meeting; which resolutions, after having been read separately, were unanimously adopted. In those resolutions Messrs. Christy and Ramage, in conjunction with other gentlemen, were appointed a committee on the part of the citizens of New Orleans, friendly to the cause under consideration, and were authorised to raise money and volunteers to send to Texas, or elsewhere to the Mexican territory, to sustain the Constitution of 1824—also to enter into a communication with the Authorities of Texas. This committee, viz: Messrs. Christy and Ramage, were the gentlemen who had the direction and the control of the Expedition against Tampico, now under consideration before you.

Whether this Expedition was, or was not, in accordance with the views and the desires of the people of Texas, or its authorities, *at that time*, seems to be a matter of question *at present;* but *at the time* those events occurred, there was no expression of feeling or opinion to the contrary. Therefore, as *silence* is most generally received as giving *consent*, we must here also apply and adopt the same golden rule and firmly established principle in this case; and more particularly so, if we take into consideration that *at the time* this Expedition was set on foot, and actually embarked for the place of its destination, there was no accredited public or private Agent of Texas in New Orleans to instruct the Committee as to the nature of the Government of Texas, and the title of their constituted Authorities, or even to represent to the said Committee the wishes of the people, or the operations of their authorities against the usurping power of Santa Anna;—for, permit me, Gentlemen, here to remark, that Texas *did not war at that time* against the Mexican nation, nor did it assume the hostile attitude of an *Independent State or Nation*, but as an integral part of the State of Coahuila and Texas, and as a *Member* of the Mexican Confederation.* I say, it did not war against the Mexican NATION or PEOPLE, but against the usurping power of Santa Anna, and the military despotism, in defiance of the Constitution of 1824.† Therefore, the Committee were of opinion, that an *immediate descent* upon *any part* of the Mexican territory would operate beneficially in effecting a diversion to *that point* of the energies of the Mexican Government—engaging her attention, and calling thither, surely, the aid of her military forces; and that the invasion of *such* port or ports on the Mexican coast as were nearest to the Capital, and whose Custom Houses yielded a considerable part of the scanty national revenue, would cause the abandoning *at least for a moment*, the idea of the *immediate invasion* of Texas, as will be clearly seen from the tenor of Gen'l Stephen F. Austin's letter, dated at camp, near Bexar, on the 6th November, 1835; the *very day* on which our expedition sailed from New Orleans—an extract of which letter is embraced in the documentary testimony accompanying my petition now before you, and to which I respectfully refer.* It appears that Gen. Austin, at that time in the field, was moved *by instinct* in the suggestion of a measure, so consonant with the opinion of the Committee at New Orleans; the soundness of which opinion was corroborated by the act of the Consultation of the chosen delegates of all Texas, in general Convention assembled, and then in session, by which that body adopted the "DECLARATION OF 7th NOVEMBER" of the same year, which proclaims to the world in its first Article, "that Texas has taken up arms in defence of her rights and liberties, which were threatened by the encroachments of military despots, and in defence of the Republican principles of the *Federal Constitution of Mexico* of 1824." Again, in Article 8th of the same document is recorded: that "Texas will reward, by donations in lands, all who volunteer their services in her present struggle, and receive them as citizens." And again, see the 2d Section of the Report of the select committee to whom were referred sundry papers and letters from Gen'l Austin and other officers of the *Colonial Army*, near Bexar,—page 40, Journal of the Consultation†—which Report was *unanimously* adopted. From this Section, it is evident, that the Committee fully agree with the Commanding General, Austin, in regard to the expediency of an Invasion of Matamoros or Tampico; and had such not taken place, by our embarcation, such expedition would have been ordered by that body, and consequently our Expedition was tacitly sanctioned.

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* See C. Document No. 10, paragraph 7.

† ibid: paragraph 1.

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* See D. Document No. ~~17~~. 19

† See D. Document No. 27.

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It is evident from the letters of Messrs. Christy and Ramage, acting as a Committee of New Orleans to the Provisional Government of Texas, dated on the 20th October and 4th November, 1835, also of those of General Mexia of 29th October, and of my own letter of 4th November of the same year, (the first three directed to the Provisional Government of Texas, and the last one to General S. F. Austin, all on file in the Department of State, and authentic copies, embraced in the documents now before you,*) that the Committee had full knowledge of and control over the said Expedition; and that if the said Committee did not act under the orders of the Constituted authorities of Texas, it was because it was not known, as already stated, at that time in New Orleans or elsewhere, what form of Government existed in Texas, nor by what style the authorities were denominated—as will fully appear by reference to the addresses of the said letters of the aforesaid Committee, as also to that of Gen. Mexia. But that there was a disposition in all parties engaged in that expedition, and the getting it up, to act in concert with Texas, in prosecuting the same noble end, there can be no doubt, as the tenor of the aforesaid letters will clearly demonstrate.

In consequence of the total want of knowledge, by the Committee, and by Gen. Mexia, of what form of Government existed in Texas at that time, and what the wishes and views of the People and the constituted authorities of the same were in regard to the operations of the war, and in the absence of an accredited public or private agent of Texas in New Orleans, as also on account of the want of knowledge by the authorities of Texas of the existence of such a Committee in New Orleans, to foster the views of the Texian people in their struggle in the outset, in consequence of her recent origin—the said Committee, being desirous of affording to the suffering Texian people prompt and efficient assistance, with the least possible delay, considered themselves sufficiently authorised to carry out the real views and sound intentions of the friends of Texas, who composed the meeting at which they were created, by sending out such aid to the "*Mexican Federalists*" (for such was the character of the people of Texas, *at that period*, and no other, because the question was not "INDEPENDENCE OF NO INDEPENDENCE," but

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* See D. Documents Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5.

"*the Constitution of* 1824,"* in whose defence the immortal TRAVIS, MILAM and FANNIN fell,) as the donations collected in said City would enable them to procure, and to act upon their own accord and with their own judgment, without waiting for orders from the Government of Texas, until further instructions from the same source should otherwise direct them. Under these circumstances, Gentlemen, the Fxpedition against Tampico, commanded by Gen. Mexia in 1835, was fitted out, and sent to the place of its destination; the contrary in *a certain printed pamphlet* and the newspaper articles, published in the United States, stigmatising the same as a piratical undertaking, *to the contrary notwithstanding*; which CALUMNY should it be necessary, I am prepared to refute by the testimony of the correspondence held between Gen. Mexia and the gentlemen composing the New Orleans Committee, as well as some others of high rank in that City, and in the State of Louisiana, who furnished the arms and munitions of war, &c., to Gen. Mexia—originals of which correspondence are still in existence. This calumny would have been exposed to the public before now, had not prudential motives intervened to the contrary. And hence, my object has been, to bring forward such evidence, and such facts *only*, as are necessary to the full and clear elucidation of the matter in hand, and not the implication of others, especially when no good purpose could have been effected by such implication. *Finally*, I beg leave to assure the Honorable the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee, that, in making this EXPOSE, it is neither my *design* nor my wish, to publish *my own* notoriety—to trumpet *my own* fame;—but, to show the *justice* and reasonableness of those claims which *others*—Gen. Mexia and his patriotic band† who were engaged in the same glorious cause in which I was *myself* ennaged, *now, through me, make upon their country*; and, above all, to show how important was the *bearing*, and how intimate the *connection*, which the *facts* and *events* herein set forth, *had* upon the *welfare*, and the destiny of Texas;—to say nothing of my own personal exertions, losses and sufferings,‡ in defending Texas, from the tyrant's grasp; in disseminating the seeds of Liberty and *true Patriotism* § among her people; and in promoting, in

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* See C. Documents 10, paragraph 6.

† See D Document No. 21, preamble.

‡ See C. Documents No. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

§ See C. Documents No. 1, 2, and 4.

every way * in my power, the *permanent good* and *happiness* of the bright land of my adoption.

With my best thanks, for the marked attention to my subject, by the Honorable the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee,

I remain, Respectfully,

GEO. FISHER.

City of Austin, 14th December, 1839.

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* See C. Document No. 15.

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DOCUMENT NO. 1.

Editorial, inserted in No. 4, fol. 16, of "Mercurio de Matamoros," of 27th November, 1834.

"Although we offer to our readers the present number of our paper with the greatest regret, because its contents are nothing more or less than an enumeration of grievances for committed injustice and arbitrary measures, which are resounding from all parts of our country, we nevertheless hope, by it, to call the attention of our rulers to the subject, because it shews evidently the discord and the division which exist among the people.

"The imprudence of some of the subordinate authorities, and the excessive zeal of some of the superiors, by reason of the first parties making false representations of the will of their constituents, and the last ones exercising arbitrary measures towards their subalterns, thus violating the public confidence reposed in them, as well as the sacred rights of freemen, guaranteed by the fundamental chart, can not produce any good, and we, as members of the great family, and being bold of expressing publicly our opinion, considering our individual rights, by such encroachments, jeopardised, can not look upon the passing events, without raising our feeble voice against these excesses of power, and abuse of authorities.—We hope that the supreme authorities whom it behooves to look to such things, will adopt the necessary measures to check them,—thus sustaining every one in the free exercise of his constitutional rights,—the only safeguard of our political existence. Meantime we recomend to all to follow the maxims of our motto:

"Concordia res parvæ crescunt,
"Discordia maxime dilabuntur." æ/u/
("United we stand, divided we fall.")

3. We have received, although after a considerable delay, the 3d No. of a paper called "The Texas Republican," published in the town of Brazoria, from whence we extract in Spanish, an article over the signature of "PEDRALTO," head-

ed, "*State of Texas*, No. 1." which we insert in our paper of to-day. This evidence of the state of feeling in Texas deserves the most serious attention of the Supreme Government, whom it behooves to elucidate the matter to which it refers. The aforementioned paper is published in *English*, and has a widely extended circulation in *Foreign Countries*, for which reason we desire it so much more that His Excellency the President, [Gen'l Santa Anna,] as the advocate of justice, should cause the most speedy conclusion of the prosecution instituted against Col. AUSTIN, in order that the public in general, and the people of Texas in particular, should be informed of the manner of the proceedings of the authorities who acted in this matter; thus restoring peace to the inhabitants of Texas, and securing the public tranquillity wavering in that precious part of the Mexican Republic."

DOCUMENT NO. 2.

Extract of the Editorial article of 11*th December*, 1834, *inserted in No.* 4 *of "Mercurio de Matamoros"—page* 26 *and* 27, *defending the People of the Eastern Internal States of Mexico,* against the charge of "smuggling."*

1. " * * * * Where is, then, this scandalous contraband trade, which is carried on with impunity in the Northern parts, which has caused these energetic measures on the part good name of the inhabitants of the Eastern internal States, of the Supreme Government, with which the Editors of the *Telegraph* † are traducing the saying: *that there are Mexicans who are affording them*‡ *assistance and co-operation*, and menacing us with strong measures, and severe punishments?— What kind of punishment have the gentlemen of the Telegraph decreed for us, and which they expect very shortly to inflict—founding their hopes in the wisdom of the next Congress? Will it perhaps be the closing of the Northern Ports, § as it was projected by the memorable Cabinet of

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* Tamaulipas, New Leon, Coahuila and Texas.

† The Ministerial paper at Mexico.

‡ Foreigners and Texians.

§ Tampico, Matamoros, and the Ports of Texas.

1831, in order to do away with this measure, all the lawful trade, to prevent the clandestine, and to cause the people of the eastern internal States, those of Durango, Chihuahua, a part of those of the western States and the Territory of New Mexico, to retrogade to the degrading colonial system of the Monarchs of the two Spains and the Indies, and to give to Vera Cruz and Acapulco the ascendancy of privileged Ports, with the exclusive monopoly of the transmarine trade, permitting them the annual introduction of the fleet of their vessels, and drawing a formidable wall, like unto the Chinese, upon this frontier between us and the neighboring nation?*—God forbid that this should happen; because the people of these States having already enjoyed, for a considerable time, the benefits of a free trade, derived from a federal system of Government, by their Ports being declared Ports of Entry for foreign trade, could not remain cold spectators of such an unwarranted attempt, which would reduce them to a state of vassalage from that of Freemen of equal rights in the eye of the law; and could it be called equality, that of being compelled to supply their wants with goods, wares and merchandize imported exclusively by those two privileged Ports, when nature herself has destined for the transmarine trade, the rivers, bays, inlets, and harbors, of the vastly extended coast from Panuco to the Sabine, for the better advantage to the people of the *allied Northern States of our Confederation*; thus affording them, through competition, cheapness. Could there be a greater absurdity than that of presuming that a seaport is to be closed with a sheet of paper, as it was contemplated to be done by the 11th Article of the odious law of 6th April, 1830, relative to foreigners emigrating to Texas?—What good has that law produced, and what were its consequences? We have seen them already—an appeal for grievances against the Government by armed forces, and can we expect any thing else from an attempt to reduce us to a Colonial State, as we have already described?

2. "Therefore, we would advise our contemporaries of the Telegraph to reflect upon what they write about, and to desist from inveighing against this frontier, without evidence or foundation, and not to slander us, and much less to threaten us with severe punishments, but to follow with those to

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* The United States of America.

whom in the 4th Number of our paper we recommended the maxims of our motto,* adding that

"*Alieno in loco haud stabile regnum est.*"†

3. "Whatever the causes might have been, that induced the Supreme Government to put the said vessels of war in commission upon this coast, it does not behoove us to investigate, for the present, because we consider the measure although one of *high policy*, yet, nevertheless, in *some degree* praiseworthy, inasmuch as, by its means, the unfortunate remainder of our worthy navy is employed,—of this strong arm of our National Independence, which fought with valor and enthusiasm for our liberties in 1828,‡ (let the Castles of Morro and Cabañas of Havana speak for it) which we desire to see patronised in preference to the formidable army now being organised in every part of our country, and sent into Cantonements in various directions, according to the tenor of said editorial; which measure, in our opinion, is unnecessary in a Republic, if we are to have one "*de facto et de jure*," because we have no internal enemies to combat, but are not without external ones, against whose invasion we require a Navy; and when the time shall have arrived to oppose resistance to slavery, and in the hour of danger of losing our liberties by an interior tyrant,§ there will not be a Mexican freeman, who will not fly to arms; therefore a formidable standing army in a Republic is *unnecessary*, and the military calendor by which the divers corps of the Army of the Mexican Nation are designated and distinguised, is improper for the age we live in. There are battallions of Ximenes, of Hidalgo, of Aldama, Abasolo, of Matamoros, &c.; and regiments of Vera Cruz, of Tampico, of Jalapa, &c.: there might likewise be, and perhaps there will be in time, battallions of Tamaulipas, of Texas, of New Leon, &c., similar to those of Castille of Navarra, of Leon, (old,) of Zaragoza, and finally of the Crown, of the Queen of St. Charles, of St. Peter the Apostle, and of St. Anthony the Abbot, or of Carmel, of St. Francis, and of St.

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* "*Concordia res parvæ crescunt, discordia maximæ dilabuntur.*"

† Sovereignty is insecure when exercised over remote and distant territories.

‡ The Mexican Navy commanded by Commodore David Porter, at war with the Spanish fleet, off Havana.

§ NOTE —Santa Anna, at that time, usurping the power in defiance of the Laws and the Constitution.

Ferdinand. This mode of classifying the army, is similar to the rage of changing the names of the Cities, towns, and villages of a country, thus destroying its geography, and burying into perpetual oblivion all that is beautiful, heroic and worthy of remembrance in the history of the Revolution of a country which by great efforts and sacrifices has emerged from a state of slavery, and the very names of the corps and places which by their heroic actions have distinguished themselves are lost. In our humble opinion, there is no more appropriate mode of designating the divers corps of an army than by their corresponding enumeration. What would a Xerxes, a Darius, an Alexander the great, a Julius Cæsar, or a Napoleon have done with the establishment of a military calendar? All the saints of the Gregorian, would not have sufficed to designate the corps of their armies.

DOCUMENT NO. 3.

GENERAL CÓS'S LETTER.

LEONA VICARIO, 31st March, 1835.

To the Editors of the "Mercurio de Matamoros:"

1. DEAR SIRS—I have noticed with pleasure the invitation you made me in your editorial of the 19th inst., and before it reached me I was convinced of the necessity of placing the Presidial Troops on a footing to enable them to perform those duties they are intended for, which is that of protecting the frontier settlements. In consequence of which, there has been already somethieg done in their reorganization; but you will readily perceive that to arrive at the desired point, is not the work of but few days, although the Supreme Government uses all its exertions to facilitate to this General Commandancy all the means within its reach, in the midst of the scanty resources, and the multiplied calls made upon it.

2. I have caused a considerable number of your "MERCURIES" to be promulgated among persons who, with their influence near the Government, may contribute to the adoption of measures that will be sufficient to cut the evil at the root, that has heretofore impeded the complete reorganization of the Presidial Troops, and I doubt not but they will, with their information and influence, contribute to such a grand object.

3. Meantime, there is nothing more urgent, than that of not diverting the attention of the Supreme Government with odious and noisy questions* which might disturb the public peace; to preserve which we must, necessarily, follow a regular course, and none, better than you, are calculated to invite the citizens of Tamaulipas to content themselves with a moderate liberty, and to give examples of submission to the laws, and respect for the authorities. Knowing your good judgment, I flatter myself that you will lose no opportunity to guide the public opinion in such good path, for which you are very well disposed.

Without any more, I am
Your obedient servant,
[Signed] MARTIN PERFECTO DE CÓS.

DOCUMENT NO. 4.

ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING LETTER.

To General Martin Perfecto de Cōs, Commandant General of the Eastern Internal States:

MATAMOROS, 13th April, 1835.

1. Dear Sir—Your favor of the 31st ult. is before us, and we proceed to answer it with that frankness which is characteristic both of you and ourselves.

2. We thought proper to call your attention in our No. 20th of 19th ult., which we did accordingly, to the re-organization of the Presidial Troops, of which they stand so much in need, for the security of the frontier settlements against the incursions of the savages,—not because we would, even for a moment, be led to believe that you would overlook a matter of so much importance, but for the simple reason that it does not depend entirely upon your attributes, whilst you have not the necessary means to attend to their wants, which at present are noted. This very reason has marked us out our duty to call, likewise, the attention of the Supreme Government, in an indirect manner, as it were, to this point, with a view to induce it to use its exertions in placing and preserving the

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* See C. Document No. 1, paragraphs 2 and 3: Also, Documen No. 2, parageaph 3.

Presideal Troops on a footing, to enable them to fulfil the objects of their institution. In regard to details we are convinced of your zeal, and it is pleasing to us to make it manifest.

3. You observe to us, General, that meantime that object is effected, "*there is nothing more urgent than that of not diverting the attention of the Supreme Government with odious and noisy questions which might disturb the public peace,*" &c., &c.—We confess it to you, Sir, without blushing, that we do not comprehend the true meaning of those phrases, nor how they could be applied to our humble productions. You, sir, who peruse all our papers, will have perceived that they contain ideas upon general matters, which never can be characterised, justly, as those vices you have designated.

4. The public peace having been disturbed by Vital Fernandez,[*] and Lojero,[‡] has given us cause to express, with energy, our indignation for the aberrations and iniquity of those men, who attempted to reduce the people of this state to a horde of slaves. We could not have omitted doing so without degrading our dignity[‡] as men, and without violating our duty as public writers, and prompted by both of those principles, we are determined not to recede a step in the career we have commenced. If this, then, General, is what you include in what you are pleased to call "*odious questions,*" we do not hesitate in assuring you, that although they be such, it is indispensable to continue them,—calling the attention of the Government towards them, until the remedy is obtained. In such circumstances as those, in which Tamaulipas is placed, being only a subject to the insolence of a Tyrant, there are but two ways left for her to pursue. * * * * * You know them both, and you see, that the worst one against tyranny has not been adopted; a remonstrance has been made to the Government, and as yet the people have not resorted to extremity.

5. This state, without contradiction, *is* content with a moderate liberty, and has neither asked, nor wanted, any thing more: it respects the laws and the legal authorities, but at this time it is not known where the one or the other exists. The functionary who breaks the law, destroys the titles to his authority, and wherewithal does he pretend to continue

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[*] The Governor of the State.

[†] The Political Chief of the Department.

[‡] See C. Document No. 10, paragraph 2, second part.

it? The acts of Don Vital Fernandez—those of the Legislature dictated by him—those of so many other magistrates, who are acting in concert with the one calling himself Governor, and the resolutions of the Legislative club—can *they* be called and considered as acts of the Laws? and, notwithstanding all this, do the people of Tamaulipas not obey them? contenting themselves to remonstrate to the General Government, in a manner which proves that this people, the most mild upon the face of the earth, not only desire a moderate liberty, but have even the patience to tolerate the most onerous tyranny enthroned in their very bosom.

6. In order not to divert *you* from your important labours, we conclude, General, with thanking you much for the favorable opinion with which you honor us,—assuring you that we will always, for the benefit of a people for whom we may write, inculcate ideas that will make them *great* and *respectable.*

With sentiments of highest consideration, we are, General,
Your obedient Servants,
GEO. FISHER,
For himself and the Editors of the "Mercurio de Matamoros."

[Published in No. 24, of 16th April, 1835, of the Mercurio de Matamoros, fol. 108, headed "Comunicados," 3d and 4th columns.]

DOCUMENT NO. 5.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
Commandant of Tamaulipas.

His Honor the Commandant General of these States, Brigadier General Martin Perfecto de Cós, in superior order of yesterday, informs me as follows, viz:

"Under date the 19th August last, His Excellency the Minister of War and Navy has been pleased to communicate to me the following: "I have laid before His Excellency the President *ad interim*, your note of the 30th ult. No. 478, accompanying the Memorial of George Fisher, and his Excellency commands that his banishment shall be carried into execution, for very grave and important reasons, which His

Excellency has had before him—which I communicate to your Honor in answer, and must insist upon its compliance. And I transmit the same to you for your information, and that in consequence thereof you will acquaint the party interrested, designating unto him, prudentially, the time within which he has to leave this port, in obedience to the preceding Superior Resolution."

And I transcribe the same to you for your information and compliance; assigning you the time of *six days* to leave this City, in quest of a vessel in which to leave this Republic, as decreed by the Supreme Government. Matamoros, 6th September, 1835. God and Liberty.

JOSÉ MARIANO GUERRA,
Principal Commandant.

To Mr. Geo. Fisher.

A true translation of the original Spanish, in my possession.

GEO. FISHER.

Extract from the Louisiana Advertiser, of 18th of August, 1835.

"MATAMOROS.—We have been informed by a gentleman just arrived on board the schooner John M. Bandel, from the above port, that the country was in a state of perfect tranquillity. No apprehensions were entertained that the Mexican Government would send troops into Texas, as they appear to have abandoned all intention of doing so. The only thing of any importance there, was an order from the Mexican Censor, to the *Editor of the Mercurio*, an American, directing him to leave the state at the expiration of a few days from the date of the decree. This is the second editor who has received orders to quit the REPUBLIC,—Mr. de St. Angelo having been *allowed* to revisit the United States, instead of residing at Mexico."

DODUMENT NO. 6.

MATAMOROS, 7th Febuary, 1836.

GEO. FISHER, Esq., New Orleans:

Dear Sir—I have received all your letters since your departure from Matamoros to the number of three, up to this date, and never have I been in good health enough to answer one of them, till at this present time. The first of your letters was respecting our business with the old District Judge; I have not been able to make it hold out more than fifteen or sixteen days after your departure from this place; he grew so *Tiger-like*, and so powerful, that he threatened to seize all my goods or put me in the *Calabozó*,[*] and finally compelled me to pay over to him the nett proceeds of the sales of your goods, amounting to $960.50.[†]

[Signed] PETER E. BOUIS.

A true extract of a letter in my possession, which I hereby certify.

GEO. FISHER.

[TRANSLATION.]

DOCUMENT NO. 7.

District Court:

In the late criminal prosecution instituted in this Court against Geo. Fisher, a decree was entered this day, which provides that an order be issued requiring you, under your strictest responsibility, to place at the disposal of this Court, the sum of one thousand dollars, of the proceeds of the sales of the Goods and chattels of the aforesaid Fisher, which are now selling at your Auction store;[‡] notifying you that should the proceeds of the sales of the aforesaid goods and chattels not be sufficient to cover the amount of the aforesaid One Thousand Dollars, in that case you will deliver the amount you may have in your hands, so soon as the sale is concluded.

Which order I communicate to you, requiring of you, the

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[*] A Dungeon.

[†] See C. Document No. 8.

[‡] In consequence of the peremptory order which I have received from the Military Commandant at Matamoros, to leave that place within six days,[§] I was compelled to send to the Auction Store all my remaining effects, and thus, in a hurry, to sacrifice them under the hammer, for the benefit of the Tyrant's minions, wrongly called Government officers.
GEO. FISHER.

[§] See C. Document No. 5.

the most religious compliance therewith, and whereof fail not, under the penalty of the Law.

God and Liberty. Matamoros, 19th September, 1835, at 1-2 past 10 o'clock, A. M.

"Signed"

LICENTIATUS, RAFAEL DELGADO,
District Judge.

To Mr. Peter E. Bouis, Auctioneer.

A true translation of the original Spanish in my possession, which I certify.

GEO. FISHER.

[TRANSLATION.]

DOCUMENT NO. 8.

THIRD STAMP—TWO REALS.

For the year of { Stamp. } one thousand eight
hundred and thirty { L. S. } eight, and one
Thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

I, Licentiatus, **Rafael Delgado**, Judge of the District of New Leon, residing at the Port of Matamoros,

Do hereby certify, That in the Criminal prosecution No. 13, instituted by the Post Master, Mr. Mariano Aguado, to punish the fraud, which is committed by the transmission of the newspaper, "The Mercurio," published in this City, by expresses, without the knowledge of the Post Office Department,* a decree is recorded on the reverse of the pages 32 and 33, of the following tenor, viz:

"Matamoros, 24th Oct. 1835.

"The sum of NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY DOLLARS AND FOUR REALS being received to the satisfaction of this Court of the nett proceeds of the sales of the goods and chattels of George Fisher, as it appears by the account rendered by Peter E. Bouis, Auctioneer, and recorded on pages from 28 to 30. It is ordered that a distribution thereof be made in the following portions, to wit: Three hundred and thirty three dollars two reals and eight grains, to be paid to the Post Master of this City, which the law provides to be paid into the public Treasury, as one third of the one thousand dollars for which the defendant in this case was fined.—Sixty three dollars, one real, and one grain, to be paid to the Collector of the customs of this Port, for duties of impost due, and for the amount of a small quantity of confiscated cord purchased by the aforesaid Geo. Fisher, as it appears from the official letter of the said Collector, and evident on page 26. The balance of five hundred and sixty four dollars to be distributed by halves, between the Post Master, Mr. Mariano Aguado, and the District Judge, they being the other two particeps by law, between whom and the public treasury, the law provides the distribution of the aforesaid fine of one thousand dollars, by equal shares of one third to each. It is also ordered, that, on the payment of the aforesaid sums, the respective receipts be taken, and annexed to these proceedings, as legal vouchers. Thus, by this decree, I have ordered and signed with assisting witnesses for want of a Notary Public to this Court—Attest—Licentiatus, Rafael Delgado, assistant witness, Felix Buentello, assisting witness, Eusebio Hinojosa."

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* I was compelled to forward the "Mercury" from Matamoros into the interior, and into Texas, by Expresses, at my own expense, to avoid the Post office in Matamoros, where, on previous occasions, instead of their being forwarded by mail, according to their direction, they were, after an *inquisitorial court* held over them, condemned to the flames, and burned by the Post Master, assisted by the District Judge, the Military Commandant, and the Political Chief of the Department.

Geo. Fisher.

And at the petition of Peter E. Bouis, for his convenient purposes, I grant him these presents in Matamoros, this 10th day of February, one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight, acting with assisting witnesses for want of a Notary Public, as provided for by law.

Attest, LICENTIATUS RAFAEL DELGADO,
District Judge.

Assisting Witness,	Assisting Witness,
ANTONIO CORDOVA.	JUSTUS BORJA.

Fees, including Stamp paper, four dollars and four reals and no more, which I affirm. [A Signet.]

A true translation of the orignal Spanish in my possession, which I certify.

GEO. FISHER.

DOCUMENT NO. 9.

Extract from the "New Orleans Bee" of 14th October, 1835.

TEXAS.

1. The enthusiasm displayed by our fellow citizens at the meeting last evening in favor of the people of Texas, deserves the highest commendation. The meeting was intended to be only a preparatory one, consisting of the immediate friends of the Texians; and so soon as the hour arrived, the Committee Room was thronged with an anxious audience.

2. William Christy, Esq. was called to the Chair, and James Ramage, appointed Secretary; after which a Committee was nominated to draft resolutions. During the retirement of the Committee, Messrs. Fisher and Gustavus Schmidt addressed the meeting.

3. Mr. FISHER stated that he had recently been exiled from Mexico. He had formerly been a citizen of the United States, but had resided for ten years in Mexico, where he had formed extensive connexions, mercantile and otherwise. He had lately edited a Journal in Matamoros; but in consequence of having made some free remarks on passing events,* he was ordered to leave Mexico in six days. He stated that there are three parties at present in Mexico—one composed of the Clergy and Military, who are for a consolidated Government under a TRIUMVIRATE FORM, with Santa Anna, Bravo, and Lucas Alaman, at its head—another composed of Liberals, who desire to retain the federal Republic, as fixed by the Constitution of 1824, and a third, in favor of Monarchy and for placing a scion of the House of Bourbon on the throne of Mexico. He stated that the aristocratic party are resolved to subjugate Texas at all hazards, and to expel all Americans from that State; and that the Liberal party are as firmly resolved to sustain the Texians, if they sustain the Constitution of 1824—which is *now* the pivot of the contest between the opposing parties. If Texas prove victorious, then will republicanism and constitutionality triumph in Mexico; but if Texas is worsted, then a despotic rule will be substituted. He entered, also, *into particulars*, concerning the present invasion of

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* See C. Document No. 1, paragraph 2, and ibid Document No. 4, paragraph 6.

Texas, and showed that it has long been contemplated by Santa Anna—although he had before expected to postpone it till the commencement of next year. He stated that ere Gen'l Cós went to San Antonio, he took large sums of money from the Custom House of Matamoros: but that he will soon fail of ways and means in the interior of the Country, and that the invaders *must prove a prey to the* DARING TEXIANS.*

4. Mr. Schmidt† also eloquently advocated the cause of the *people* of Texas, in support of the resolutions which were proposed by Mr. O. de A. Santangelo.‡

The Committee returned, and through Mr. Caldwell, they presented the following resolutions to the meeting:

[Here follow seven Resolutions, in favor of the cause of Texas.]

A true extract of the publication in the "New Orleans Bee" of 14th October, 1835.

GEO. FISHER.

DOCUMENT NO. 10.

The General Council of the Provisional Government of Texas to the Mexican People.

1. The people of Texas have taken up arms in defence of their rights and liberties, menaced by the attacks of military despotism, and to sustain the Republican Principles of the Constitution of 1824. The Mexican Nation ought to be fully informed on this subject, in order to correct the falsehoods circulated by the Centralists who have attempted to calumniate the Texians, by giving to the Revolution here, a character very different from the true one, and painting it in the blackest colors.

2. Texas has solemnly declared her principles in the declaration of 7th November last, made by its Representatives, and has called God to witness the sincerity and purity of her in-

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* A decisive battle in favor of Texas, such as that of San Jacinto, anticipated and encouraged.

† Gustavus Schmidt, Esq., Attorney at Law, New Orleans.

‡ O. de A. Santangelo, Esq., Editor of the "Correo Atlantico," at Mexico and New Orleans. G. F.

tentions. The people of Texas could not have acted in any other manner, and every freeman would have done the same who appreciates his own dignity and was able to resist slavery.*

3. Texas was left without any Government, owing to the imprisonment and dispersion of the Executive and Legislative authorities of the State, by the military Centralists, and every thing was rapidly falling into anarchy and ruin. It certainly was not the fault of the Texians that this state of things existed. They were living in peace when the Revolutionary flame reached their homes: their situation may be compared to that of a peaceful village that is suddenly assailed by a furious hurricane, which menaces ruin and death, from which the inhabitants seek safety by any means in their power, without being in any manner censurable for the impending danger, nor for trying to shield themselves from its effects.—The truth is, that a storm, which originated elsewhere, threatened to involve them in its desolating ravages. They wish to save themselves, as they have a right to do, by the law of nature.

4. Faithful to their oaths, they wished to defend the Constitution, and for this, their enemies have declared a war of extermination against them, and are trying to deceive the Liberal Mexicans with false reports that their objects are different from those expressed in the before-mentioned declaration. God knows this to be a malicious calumny, circulated for the purpose of consolidating Centralism, by trying to unite the Federalists in its ranks, against their friends, the Texians.

5. Very dearly indeed have the Texians acquired their homes in this country, which but a short time since was a wilderness infested by hostile Indians. It is just and natural that they should wish to preserve them in conformity with the guarantees of the Federal compact under which they were acquired. It is equally so, that they should obey the first law which God has stamped upon the hearts of men, civilized or savage, which is, self-preservation.

6. The Texians have therefore taken up arms in the defence of their Constitutional rights, in fulfilment of their duties to the Mexican Confederation, and of the most sacred obligations to themselves.

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* See C. Document No. 4, paragraph 4.

7. They have organized a Provisional local Government to provide for their security AS A PART OF THE MEXICAN CONFEDERATION, should it again be re-established. Can it be possible that the whole nation will declare war against us because we wish to comply with our obligations in favor of the Constitution, and because we wish to defend the rights which God has given to man, and which the Mexican Nation has solemnly guaranteed to us? No, it can not be believed. The free Mexicans are not unjust, and they will take part in our favor.

8. To arms, then, patriotic Mexicans! The Texians, although a young people, invite and call you to the contest, which it is the duty of all to sustain, against the perjured Centralists; separate, as we have done, from the Central Government, and declare eternal war against it; let us sustain the federal compact—restore the federal system, and firmly establish the liberties and happiness of our country. In this great work you will receive aid and assistance from Texians, so far as their limited resources will permit, as they have offered in the *Second Article* of their "DECLARATION."[*]

The foregoing address, having been read, it was resolved that it be signed by the officers of the Council, and all the members present, and that 500 copies be printed in Spanish, and 200 copies in English.

When it was signed as follows:

"Signed"
JAMES W. ROBINSON,
Lieut. Gov. and "*Ex-Officio*" President of the General Council.

D. C. BARRETT,
CLAIBORNE WEST,
WYATT HANKS,
DANIEL PARKER,
I. A. PADILLA,
JAMES KERR,
L. AYRES,

WILLIAM MENIFEE,
J. D. CLEMENTS,
HENRY MILLARD,
WILLIAM P. HARRIS,
JAMES POWER,
IRA WESTOVER,
R. R. ROYALL.

E. M. PEASE, Secretary.

Council Hall, San Felipe de Austin, December 11th, 1835.

[Extract from the Journal of the Proceedings of the General Council, pages 141, 42, 43.]

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[*] See Declaration of 7th November, 1835, D. Document No. 26.

DOCUMENT NO. 11.

MATAMOROS, 1st May, 1835.

To the Editors of the "Mercurio:"

Dear Sirs—I have read in No. 26 of your paper, two communications directed to me by Don Marcial Borrego, whilst exercising the authority of the Executive of Coahuila and Texas, from which the public will have perceived what men under excitement are capable, and how far they will be led astray when they lose their reason. It was attempted to tie up the hands of the General Government, and this General Commandancy, has proceeded in compliance with its duty.

Since you thought proper to publish *such documents* in your paper, I herewith remit you four Communications, with a request to publish them in the same manner, that the public being informed of the attempt committed by Mr. Borrego may also be advised that the troops, of which mention is made, have entered Monclova, and that Capt· Vicente Arreola has done his duty, in complying with the orders of this General Commandancy.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

"Signed," MARTIN PERFECTO DE CÓS.

Published in the "Mercurio del Puerto de Matamoros," No. 27, of 7th May, 1835, page 120.

GEO. FISHER.

DOCUMENT NO. 12.

MONTERREY, 15th January, 1834.

MR. GEO. FISHER:

Dear Sir—The affairs of Texas, which have given me labor and vexation enough for fifteen years past, are likely, as it seems, to keep me in difficulties for some time to come.—The fact is, that during the last year of general convulsions, it has been almost impossible for any one who occupies any space in society to keep clear of entanglements of some kind. I have been arrested by an order from the Minister of War, on an accusation made by the State Government, and I leave to-morrow, I presume for Mexico.

2. All that I can be accused of, is that I have labored diligently and faithfully, and with pure intentions to cover the

wilderness of Texas with an agricultural and useful population, and to make it a State of the Mexican Republic, separate from Coahuila. This is no crime,—it is quite the reverse.

3. I have sent some claims against the *Commissariat Department*, to D. W. Smith, to collect, and as you are the Commissary, I recommend them for *prompt dispatch.*

4. I am very much pleased with the new Commandant General Don Pedro Lemus, and I recommend him as a man of high honor and liberal principles, and a gentleman.

5. The *basis of the policy* which Tamaulipas ought to adopt should be: "*The Country needs population,*" and all their laws should tend to encourage immigration to that State from the Interior, and from Foreign Countries, especially the latter.

6. I received one letter from you in Mexico.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

"Signed," S. F. AUSTIN.

A true extract of the original letter in my possession, which I certify.

GEO. FISHER.

DOCUMENT NO. 13.

MEXICO, October 15th, 1834.

MR. GEO. FISHER:

1. Dear Sir—I sincerely congratulate you on the appointment you have received in the Custom House of Matamoros, and hope you may long continue to enjoy prosperity and peace.

2. The experience of the last few years has taught me a great deal,—I have learned more of mankind and of the human passions than I was ever willing to believe before. My frankness, and open candid good faith, has envolved me in many difficulties—and my confidence in others, has entangled me very much, but all this will be useful to me for the future,—that is, if I ever get out of this prison, which I hope to do soon.

3. Two of my friends arrived to-day from Texas, with representations in my favor from the Ayuntamientos of Texas, and Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas, which I think will havea favorable effect.

4. On the 6th of this month I wrote to my friends in Texas on the subject of representing, but as the above representa-

tions have arrived, it will not be necessary for them to do so, and I must request the favor of you to write to my brother-in-law, James F. Perry, "*Care of Mr. A. Bryan, San Felipe*;" informing him that the Representations, sent by Mr. Grayson, have been received, and that he need not procure any more, as I requested him to do in my letter to him dated 6th of this month. I presume you will receive this letter before Capt. Offutt* leaves Matamoros, and you can write by him. It will be best to send this letter to Mr. Perry. I wish it also for another reason, which is this: "I have long since informed my friends in Texas, that I was satisfied with you, and was your friend." By sending this letter they will have an additional evidence of the terms of friendship on which we stand. I will take this occasion to thank you for the letters and statements you have written to this City in my favor. The only time to try friendship is when a man is in misfortune and persecuted by a host of *powerful* enemies, as I am. You have interested yourself for me *even at the risk of injuring yourself.*—I wish my family to know this, they will *not forget it.* For these reasons, I wish you to send this letter to my brother-in-law, James F. Perry.

5. I am in better spirits, and my prospects are much better than they were when Capt. Offutt left, and I hope that a few months more will release me from my long and dreary imprisonment. My motto has always been *fidelity to Mexico.* I have never deviated from it, but I have been greatly entangled by others, and by circumstances that I could not control. I have suffered much, but a clear and quiet conscience has enabled me to bear it with fortitude.

6. There is nothing new except what you will see in the public papers, that is, nothing that I know of,—all is peace, and *Federation* seems to be the order of the day. Some however think that January and February will be stormy months. Congress have certainly a very difficult and delicate task before them. God give them wisdom and prudence to regulate matters so as to insure peace and prosperity to this Republic.

Yours Respectfully, &c.,

S. F. AUSTIN.

A true copy from the original in my possession which I certify. GEO. FISHER.

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[*] Capt. Horatio J. Offutt,—Proprietor of Washington Hotel at the City of Mexico.

DOCUMENT NO. 14.

MEXICO, March 30th, 1835.

MR. GEO. FISHER,

1. Sir—I received your favor of 5th inst. making inquiry whether I had sent you a copy of my "EXPOSITION," as you suspected one had been *purloined* in the *Post Office* of that place which had been directed to you. I think it probable your suspicion *is well founded*,[*] for I sent one to you, one to the Ayuntamiento,[†] and one to Smith.[‡] I now send you another copy which I hope will reach you.

2. I am still here a prisoner *on bail*,[§] and can not make any calculations when I shall be able to leave, though hope in all next mouth.

2. I am very happy to hear that Doctor Beales is going on prosperously with the settlement of the families he contracted with the State Governmet,[‖] and that he expects them out from Ireland and Germany in a short time. I wish him every success in his enterprise, for it is an arduous one, and also will be very useful to the country which needs population.—Should it be in my power to serve him in any way, I will cheerfully do so. My respects to Doctor Beales and also to Powers on the Nueces, when you see them.

Yours Respectfully, &c.,

"Signed," S. F. AUSTIN.

A true copy of the original in my possession, which I certify.

GEO. FISHER.

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[*]. It wus purloined by the Post Master to impede my Communications with Col. Austin.

[†] City Council of Matamoros.

[‡] D. W. Smith, Esq., U. S. Consul at Matamoros.

[§] In consequence of the Editorial article of 27th Nov. 1834, published in the "Mercurio," No. 4. See C. Document No. 1. paragaaph 3.

[‖] With the Government of the State of Coahuila and Texas, for the Colony of "Dolores" on the Rio Grande, above the "*Presidio del Rio Grande*," extending to the Nueces. Subscriber, at that time acting as the agent for Doct. Beales, at Matamoros, to receive and forward the Colonists.

GEO. FISHER.

DOCUMENT NO. 15.

1. Received, New Orleans, 16th April, 1836, of Mr. Geo. Fisher, Fifty Dollars, as a donation for the reliefof the People of Texas, now struggling against the tyrany of the Mexican Despot, which sum I promise to hand over to the Texian Agent in this City.

$50. "Signed," WM. K. HILL,
Secretary Texas Meeting.

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2. Received, New Orleans, 9th June, 1836, of Mr. Geo. Fisher, at sundry times, the amount of Five Hundred and Twenty Dollars, as a contribution for defraying the printing of the "*Correo Atlantico*," at the rate of $32.50 per each number of 500 copies, from No. 17 to No. 32, both inclusive.

$520. "Signed," O. de A. SANTANGELO.

True copies of their originals in my possession, which I certify.

GEO. FISHER.

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3. "We take extracts from the "Correo Atlantico" of the 11th ult., a paper devoted *heart and soul* to our cause, and *without exception its most strenuous supporter*."

A true extract from the Telegraph and Texas Register, of 2d August, 1836, to which I refer.

GEO. FISHER.

[D]

COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS, RELATIVE TO THE EXPEDITION OF Gen. JOSE ANTONIO MEXIA, AGAINST TAMPICO, IN NOVEMBER, 1835.

COMPILED BY

GEORGE FISHER,

SECRETARY TO THE EXPEDITION.

ORIGINALS ON FILE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS,

HOUSTON:
1839.

December 9, 1839, Referred to the Committee on
MILITARY AFFAIRS.

January 10th, 1840.
COMMITTEE REPORTED AND DISCHARGED.

[D]

COMMUNICATIONS

FROM

GENERAL MEXIA

AND OTHERS:

READ IN COUNCIL, AND REFERRED TO

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS:

AFTERWARDS REFERRED TO

Select Committee of Five,

DEC. 17, 1835.

REPORTED AND COMMITTEE DISCHARGED

DECEMBER 25, 1835.

DOCUMENT NO. 1.

[TRANSLATION.]

New Orleans, 29th Oct. 1835.

Thos. McKinney, Esq.

1. Esteemed Friend—By the enclosed letter* you will be informed of my ideas, what I intend to do, and what, in my humble opinion, I consider to be beneficial to us all. Read it; and, after perusing it, send it sealed to the person or persons, who at present are at the head of affairs, with as little delay as its interesting object may require.

2. I am of opinion that I shall leave here on the sixth or eighth of the next month (November); the day before my departure, I shall write to you, also from any point of the coast where I may land, I shall inform you respecting our future combinations. Write all this to my friend Zavala, and accept for yourself the affections of

Your servant,

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.

The above is a true translation of the original letter on file in Spanish.

GEO. FISHER.

DOCUMENT NO. 2.

[TRANSLATION.]

New Orleans, 29th Oct. 1835.

To the Gentlemen Directors of public affairs in Texas.

1. Gentlemen—Being unwilling to remain any longer a cold spectator of the difficulties under which our Republic is suffering, in consequence of the perversity and bad faith of the priestly party, who have usurped the reins of the government, I have made an effort, more than common, in order that I might be useful in the noble cause which has always found me in its ranks; and one which you are now sustaining with

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* See. D. Document No. 2.

such noble decision. Until such time as things have arrived at a point of open rupture with the MANDARINES of Mexico, while there was even a hope that an accommodation might be effected between the haughty tyrants and the colonies, I did not wish to meddle with the questions that were in agitation; but now that they have carried their pretensions so far as to extinguish the last spark of Mexican liberty, in order that they might afterwards establish an order of things incompatible with the age in which we live, I cast off with one hand the mantle of phylosophy in which I have invested myself, and grasping with the other the sword which I never have yet unsheathed unless it was to sustain the cause of the people.

2. Convinced that you are in yourselves sufficiently strong, and that my services may be more useful at another point, and with a view to call the attention of the usurping government to one of its ports from whence it derives its *principal* support, I have determined to make a descent upon *Tampico;* for which place I shall make sail in a few days, with this object, which is so important, I have armed a schooner, with a 12 pound cannonade and two eight pounders, and manned it with a crew of 50 men, armed and provisioned for 2 months, having also 150 men, armed and equipped, for land service, and all in good spirits. For all this I have been under the necessity of pledging my credit to effect loans, and make lucrative offers; but all has been done with the advice and approbation of our illustrious Vice President, Gomez Farias, who will remain in this city until we can place him in safety in the Republic, without his being exposed. My arrangements in Tampico are such that I think that the objects of the enterprise are certain in their attainments, unless some extraordinary or unforeseen circumstance should intervene. But if any thing should transpire to frustrate our plan, I shall be advised of it on arriving in sight of the place, in which event I shall shape my course for Matamoros, in which place we may count upon a large party of friends from the interior, who will assist us. At all events, what is of much importance, and what I particularly recommend is, that we pay strict attention to the coast; organizing a naval force sufficient to capture and frustrate any expedition that may be fitted out from Vera Cruz or Campeachy against us; understanding that the only resources of the enemy are the products of

the custom houses on the coast, and it is obvious that we should deprive them of this resource, and annoy them by every means in our power.

3. You need not have the least doubt but that in the interior public sentiment is generally in our favor—and that the people are only waiting for an opportunity to throw off the yoke that the servile party have made so heavy on their necks. Daily I am receiving communications from the interior, and lately I have received from the Governor of Tamaulipas an invitation to join in a reaction against tyrany, in such terms that so soon as we shall present ourselves, we shall have a force sufficient for the triumph of liberal principles.

4. It also appears to me necessary that our communications should be frequent, and if there should be a necessity for operations on the coast you should make arrangements for them, in order that the result of our enterprize may be favorable, in the attaining of all which more than half depends in the celerity and activity of our movements. As it may happen that in the course of our campaign we shall be obliged to use much precaution in our correspondence; in order to prevent interception, I send you enclosed a cypher, in which we may write all matters of importance, you in English and I in Spanish.

5. I conclude this letter, felicitating myself that I am about to enter upon the noble cause in which you are engaged; a cause in which I shall have comrades who will not succumb until the last shall cease to exist; a cause in which, without vanity I say it, I feel myself worthy the friendship of the Texians; to whom I wish union, constancy, and that *victory* may crown all their efforts.

I remain, gentlemen, your friend and companion.
(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
(Signed) GEO. FISHER, Secretary.
Translated by L. de Zavala.

DOCUMENT NO. 3*.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

New Orleans, Nov. 4th, 1835.

Col. S. F. Austin.

1. My Dear Sir—My last respects to you were per Columbus—this goes per Louisiana. In my last I have informed you of my plan of operations, and now I give you further and more ample advices. We will leave here on the 6th inst. for Tampico, armed and equipped as the circumstances require—where we will find every thing in readiness, and the assistance and co-operation of the steam boat, its establishment at the bar,—the pilot, and all, already initiated, and waiting for us. From thence we will proceed to Matamoros, where likewise every thing is provided for, and the Moctezuma being in the Brasos-Santiago (according to the news received this morning, per the schooner Pearl, 6 days from Matamoros) will inevitably fall a prize to us. The revenue cutter Santa Pie, of Aranzas, is run into this port, from the Copano. There are at present here 7 Mexican vessels in this port, and bound to Tampico, Vera Cruz and Campeachy. Let me again remind you of Dn. V. Gomez Farias, to be called to Texas, as the only constitutional authority of the Mexican Republic, whose establishment in your country as the Executive of the nation, and his call upon his countrymen, will enevitably unite the liberal Mexicans, and become supporters of your cause, whereas otherwise the false doctrine propagated by the sattelites of the usurper, that Texas has declared its independence of the Mexican nation, will make them proselites to their own cause. You will discover Mexia's opinion upon this point, in his letter directed to the "Directors of the Political Affairs of Texas." If we get the Moctezuma, as I hope we will, then we will soon form a squadron, to stop the revenue of the usurper, and cutting off his resources, put him down—at least prevent him from molesting you by sea, along the whole coast from the Sabine to Tuspan, which will be ours. My next, I hope, I will be able to send you by express, via Matamoros and Goliad, by land.

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* See Journal of Proceedings of the General Council, page 9.

Hoping to hear from you shortly, I am, dear sir, yours very truly.

(Signed) GEO. FISHER.

P. S.—I am going in the capacity of "*Secretary to the Expedition.*" We have some fine officers and men, about 150 in all.

P. S.—Carbajal, Fernando de Leon and Peter Car, have chartered a vessel, to leave here in a few days for the "Garcitas" with provisions and merchandize, for family use, as they say.

DOCUMENT NO. 4*.

NEW ORLEANS, 20th Oct. 1835.

To the Officers of the Provisional Government of Texas.

You will see from the papers which will be handed to you by Mr. Edward Hall, what movements have been made in our city in favor of the *Texian Emigrants*, in pursuance of which one company, consisting of about fifty men, well armed and provided, will leave to-morrow, to go via Natchitoches: an other, numbering sixty-five, accompany the bearer of this; and a vessel well armed, furnished and manned by about one hundred and fifty *efficient emigrants, will sail for Tampico*, under the command of General Mexia, in about one week. With such acquisitions to your present force and resources, we trust that matters will be brought to a speedy and glorious termination. God be with you.

(Signed) WM. CHRISTY, } Acting Com-
JAMES RAMAGE, } mittee.

DOCUMENT NO. 5†.

NEW ORLEANS, 4th Nov. 1835.

To the Officers of the Provisional Government of Texas.

1. The Committee of this City, on the affairs of Texas, had the pleasure of addressing you a few lines on the 20th

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* See Journal of the Consultation, pages 23 and 24.

† See Journal of the Proceedings of the General Council, page 10.

Oct. through Mr. Hall, who accompanied the volunteers, who have gone to your aid, and whom (about one hundred and twenty in all) we hope have before this time presented themselves where their services will be useful.

2. We now have the further pleasure of sending about thirty more, who have been raised in Mobile, and put under the control of the committee here.

3. The contemplated expedition to be commanded by General Mexia, consisting of about one hundred and fifty men, will sail to-morrow on board the schooner Mary Jane, all well armed and provisioned. Tampico is the place of destination, which place we have no doubt will be in the possession of the General in a few days. He will communicate with you, after his arrival, by express.

4. We have received and rejoice at the news of the first blow having been struck with success, and we sincerely hope that others, equally triumphant have followed. It will give us pleasure to hear from you from time to time, and to continue our feeble aid in whatever way we can—with a view to which, please command us without reserve.

We have the honor to be, with high regard and consideration, your ob't serv'ts.

(Signed) WM. CHRISTY, } Acting Com
JAMES RAMAGE, } mittee.

DOCUMENT NO. 6.

BRASOS BAR, Dec. 3, 1835.

His Excellency Augustin Viesca.

1. MY DEAR FRIEND—After a very fatiguing voyage of eight days, from Tampico Bar, I have arrived here. The fatigues, and my engagements, preclude, at present, my entering into the details of my expedition against Tampico. Suffice it to tell you, that on my entering that port I was shipwrecked at the distance of 500 varas from the fort; and that the garrison thereof, far from molesting me, joined my command; after which I took up my line of march upon the city, which I attacked, and which I have not succeeded in taking, in consequence of my munitions having all got wet; and because I had but eight cartridges to a man, that were useful;

and although I have taken from the enemy two cannon and the Custom House, I found myself in the situation of being unable to continue my attack upon the buildings in which they fortified themselves, and was compelled to retreat to the fort at 5 o'clock A. M. I remained there 12 days, saving from the wreck of my vessel all that could be useful to me, but the most important articles were wanting, which were provisions and munitions of war, and the money wherewith to procure them. Not a soul came near me, until finally seeing the inexpediency of my remaining there isolated for any longer time, I chartered a vessel for this port.

2. I shall, with all speed, proceed to land my men, which are about 150, composed of Americans, French and Mexicans; after which I shall have to land the cannon (4), balls, grape shot, arms, and other articles, so that I cannot abandon this place, without your express orders, or that of the individual exercising the Executive branch of the government. It is however necessary that I should have an interview with the Executive in order that I may arrange my future operations, as well as be released of the charge which bears heavy upon me, on account of the payment of the charter-party of the schooner which brought us hither. For this reason, I wish you, or the individual exercising the Executive powers of the government, would take the trouble of meeting me at Brazoria immediately. I shall proceed there also, and we may communicate with each other. But this requires promptness of action, as the vessel remains without the bar, exposed to all dangers, for which I am responsible; also, as I am destitute of all means of furnishing the troops with *necessaries;* and inasmuch as it is absolutely requisite that I should be informed of what I have to do. Let it be thus done my friend, and excuse me, for I am so feeble that I cannot even continue any longer this letter; therefore I conclude it thus, making the same applicable also to my friends Zavala and Alpuche, whom salutes your affectionate friend.

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.

A true translation from its original Spanish on file, which I certify. GEO. FISHER.

DOCUMENT NO. 7.

Quintana, Mouth River Brasos, 7th Dec. 1835.

Your Excellency,

1. Sir—I deem it a duty incumbent on me, as a public character, as also the duty which the sacred cause we defend imposes on me, to lay before your Excellency a brief narrative of the origin, organization, and combination which decided me to undertake the expedition against Tampico, and which was done in accordance, and with the assistance of the committee appointed by the citizens of New Orleans, friendly to our cause, assembled at a meeting for that purpose, of which your Excellency has been advised by letters* from Wm. Christy, Esq., President thereof.

2. Immediately after the information was received of the movements which the troops of the usurper Santa Anna had made on Texas, and that its inhabitants were making preparations to resist the invasion, I agreed with the said committee to see what measures we could adopt to co-operate, for rendering effective aid to the cause of Texas, which I have and do view as the cause of the sound part of the whole Republic.

3. At the time we were thus engaged, Mr. Geo. Fisher arrived at New Orleans, from Matamoros, *banished† the country by order of Santa Anna*, who delivered me a communication of the Governor of the State of Tamaulipas, in which his Excellency invited me to take the field against the usurping administration of Santa Anna.

4. In consequence of this, and other information which we had in New Orleans, respecting the public opinion throughout the States of the Confederation against tyranny, the committee and myself agreed, with the consent of the Vice President, Farias, to raise a small expedition, which, landing at Tampico or Matamoros, thus calling the attention of the Centralists towards these points, would serve as a diversion in favor of the oppressed Federalists, at the same time deprive the government of the resources yielded by one of its principal Custom Houses, whence we could get pecuniary aid necessary for the expenses of the war. This plan, which we

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* See D, Documents Nos. 4 and 5.

† See C, Documents 5, 6 and 9.

agreed on, Mr. Christy was charged to communicate to the Provisional Government of Texas; I also forwarded the same through the medium of Thos. F. McKinney, Esq., which I hope you duly received.*

5. As dispatch was the principal point of this undertaking, and as the committee were without necessary means for the expedition, I found myself compelled to undertake the same, with my own resources and those of my friends. A schooner was bought and armed with five cannon, also, arms, ammunitions, clothing and equipments were purchased for one hundred and fifty men, of which the expedition was to be composed.

6. Provisions for three months, also supplies of cannon, ammunition and arms, with the view to serve in the field, were likewise bought. I will, in due time, present you with an official statement of the whole.

7. The schooner, troops, and equipments, were ready in fifteen or twenty days, and we sailed from New Orleans on the evening of the 6th November last, with the aforementioned one hundred and fifty men.

8. Previous to our departure from New Orleans, we sent to Tampico two Commissioners, with the view that, in unison with the Federalists in said port, they would be ready, and in a state to assist our undertaking at the moment of our landing. The principal charge which said commissioners had was, to gain in our favor the troops garrisoning the fort at the bar, for the purpose of enabling us to effect an entrance into the river without danger.

9. As regards this point, it was attained, inasmuch as the commandant, as well as the troops, were well disposed towards us.

10. After a voyage of seven days we arrived off the bar of Tampico, and hove to with intent to shew our friends the preconcerted signal.

11. At, or about 4 o'clock P. M. the steam boat came alongside, when, to my astonishment, I discovered the Capt. knew nothing of our combination, although it was one of my principal plans that he should be informed of it. As this requisite was wanting, and as I did not know whether the garrison of the fort was favorable to our cause, I delayed an

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* See D, Documents Nos. 2, 4 and 5.

entrance into the port until evening, in order to conceal from the soldiers in the fort the troops on board, and the character of the vessel, under cover of darkness. This was the cause of the steam boat and schooner striking on the north bar, near the fort, where it was impossible to get them off.

12. I now give your Excellency the cause which prevented the persons, who ought to have been at the bar, (in expectation of my vessel) from being there. Among the individuals who were already prepared to act in our favor, on our arrival, was an officer belonging to the troops garrisoned in the city of Tampico; he succeeded in gaining over part of the troops, but by an indiscretion of some persons, who knew our plans, he was afraid the secret would be discovered. The evening previous to my arrival, they commenced movements, which having alarmed the commandant, Gomez, caused him to make the abovementioned officer a prisoner. And as the persons at the bar were compromised with the prisoner, so soon as they had the news they went to town to avoid the combination being discovered. On the day we arrived, possession would have been taken of Tampico, without a shot, provided no person had been aware of our landing.

13. On the 15th, at 2, A. M. we commenced landing through the surf, every man carrying his musket—all our ammunition got wet—the vessel having been exposed at least eight hours to the heavy sea, which broke over her, causing her to leak badly. All the arms became useless, and on passing an inspection to ascertain if we could immediately continue our march to the City, thus taking advantage of the enemy's ignorance of our arrival, I found it was impossible to do so before cleaning the muskets, and providing the troops with fresh and additional ammunition. This opperation required time; it was commenced immediately, although the best exertioas were used to accomplish it with the utmost haste it could not be finished till 5, P. M., at which hour we took up our line of march for Tampico, through a by-path of more than 12 miles to avoid a fortification by which it was impossible to pass, should the enemy oppose us.

14. It was between 12 and 1 o'clock in the night when we entered the town. From six in the afternoon, Commandant Gomez knew of our landing, and it also appeared he was informed by the English Consul of our having taken up our line of march for the City; with this foreknowledge he was pre-

pared with a force of about two hundred and fifty, or three hundred men, with whom he fortified the terrace roofs of three houses and erected a battery in the Custom House, the principal point of his defence.

15. As my ammunition was short, I ordered, that on no account, should the enemy be fired at, but to approach them as near as possible and then charge with the bayonet, so soon after the first discharge of cannon as practicable; by so doing, I succeeded in gaining my object, as in two minutes we had dislodged the enemy and taken two pieces of cannon, obliging them to shut themselves up in the fortified houses, from whence they fired on us. Disorder appearing among a part of our raw recruits, and the absolute want of cartriges to keep up the attack, it being necessary to keep up a strong fire to dispossess the fortified houses, all this united to the weariness of the troops arising from the Shipwreck and the fatigues of the march, decided me to retreat after consulting with Capts. Allen and Lambert, (the only Captains who maintained their characters as soldiers,) whether they thought they could follow up the attack in the then present state of the troops. We had eight killed and as many more wounded; also twenty who had deserted the ranks and who dispersing themselves in the City in the commencement of the attack, were taken prisoners. Those who remained in the ranks at the time of retreat, reached their destination.

16. One of my first acts on my arrival at the bar, was to write to our friends in the interior, on whom we could relie, among them General Montezuma; but in our situation without horses to dispose of these communications, they could not be repeated, and I, not knowing whether they would fall in the enemys' hands, or, that I would receive an answer.

17. Being masters of the bar and the Fort of Tampico, we could have sustained our position against the forces which the enemy could have brought. Martial law had been proclaimed in Tampico, obliging Spaniards and citizens to take up arms. However, to defend ourselves it was necessary to obtain ammunition: as we had neither lead nor moulds to make musket balls. The absolute want of these things, as also the scarcity of provisions and money to purchnse them, also the natural discontent of our troops, dissatisfied by the want of clothing and good food, was peculiarly discouraging!

18. Under these circumstances it appeared to me most prudent to abandon my position and go to Texas, there to follow up the campaign against the tyrrany of the military and clergy.

19. Many vessels were at the bar, but none so appropriate for our object as the American schooner Halcyon, respecting her flag *as neutral*, I could not oblige the Captain to serve as transport, consequently agreed to charter him for $2,000.

20. The twelve days we remained at the bar we did not see the enemy, but on the 26th when we were embarking and at the time I was left in the Fort with five artillery men, with twenty soldiers along with Capts. Allen and Lambert and Col. Fisher, we saw the enemy advancing, but we dispersed them with a dozen well directed cannon shot, when within a short distance.

21. We took away all the ammunition we found in the Fort belonging to the Cannon, spiked them, and embarked the remaining forces without molestation.

22. We were eight days from Tampico to this place, and ever since our arrival, we have been engaged in disembarking the troops, arms, &c.

23. The evening I arrived, I wrote to Mr. Viesca, thinking he still held the Command, and entreated him, in case he was not in Command to forward the same to the person invested with it. The necessity in which I found myself to receive orders to be enabled to continue our march. Above all I wrote him, how important it would be that the Governor would take the trouble to meet me at Brazoria or Columbia, to confer on many subjects, more particularly on the payment for the Charter of the Schooner, as also to provide some necessaries, to supply the troops, which they are in want of, and the means for daily maintenance. My resources are already consumed in fitting out the vessels, purchasing arms, clothes, &c.; the little I saved from the wreck I expended in purchasing provisions (for the passage from Tampico to this place) from the vessels at the bar.

24. It is very important the volunteers should have some attention paid them, after the late fatigues, that they may be enabled to follow up the campaign. I must notify your Excellency that there is dissatisfaction among the troops, originating in my not being able to give them the necessaries to which they think themselves entitled.

25. I hope your Excellency will excuse my lengthy narrative, as the nature of the case requires it—having taken into consideration the noble object of my expedition, as also the difficult and extraordinary circumstances which have occurred, and at the same time consider how much this handful of men have done during the last month, and whose only interests have been to sustain public liberty.

I hope your Excellency will dedicate a few moments to me and my companions, and accept of our best wishes.

God and Liberty.
(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
(Signed) GEO. FISHER, Secretary.

DOCUMENT NO. 8.

QUINTANA, 9th December, 1835.

Your Excellency:

I have the honor to lay before your Excellency five Statements of the particulars connected with the expedition against Tampico, under my charge, since our departure from New Orleans, up to this day, marked from No. I to V.

I am your Excellency's most ob't serv't,
(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
To His Excellency, the Governor of Texas,
San Felipe de Austin.

NO. I.

A Statement of the physical force of the Expedition against Tampico at the time of leaving New Orleans.

COMPANY OF GRENADIERS.

Captain,*	1
Lieutenant, 1st,	1
Do. 2d,	1
Orderly Sargeant,	1

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* John M. Allen.

2d Sargeants,	2	
Corporals,	4	
Soldiers,	42	52

COMPANY OF SHARP SHOOTERS.

Captain,[*]	1	
Lieutenant, 1st,	1	
Do. 2d,	1	
Orderly Sargeant,	1	
Sargeants, 2d,	2	
Corporals,	4	
Soldiers,	38	48

COMPANY OF LIBERTY.

Captain,[†]	1	
Lieutenant, 1st,	1	
Do. 2d,	1	
Orderly Sargeant,	1	
Sargeants, 2d,	2	
Corporals,	4	
Soldiers,	23	33

GENERAL STAFF.[‡]

General,	1	
Colonel,	1	
Lieutenant Colonel,	1	
Major,	1	
Captain,	1	
Lieutenant, 1st,	1	
Do. 2d,	5	
Surgeon,	1	
Secretary,	1	13

MARINE CORPS.

Captain,[§]	1	
Mate, 1st,	1	
Do. 2d,	1	
Stewards,	2	

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[*] Geo. Diedérick. [†] F. Lambert. [‡] See D, Document No. 28. [§] John Hall.

Cooks,	2	
Ordinary Seamen,	8	15
Total number of force,		161

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
(Signed) Geo. Fisher, Secretary.
Quintana, 9th Dec. 1835.

NO. II.

A Statement of Cannon, Ammunition, and other articles appertaining to the Artillery belonging to the expedition against Tampico.

Cannon, iron 6 pounders, with carriages,	2
Brass Culverines, of the force of 12 pound cannon,	2
Cannon Balls, 6 pounders, iron,	50
Do. do. for the Culverines, do.,	200
Cartridges for Cannon, 4 lbs. powder each,	20
78 Cannisters grape shot, brass, of 2, 4, 8 and 16 oz. balls, mixed, lbs.	1500
Gunpowder for cannon, lbs.	280
Cartridges for cannon, 6 lbs. powder each,	24

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
(Signed Geo. Fisher, Secretary.
Quintana, 9th Dec. 1835.

NO. III.

A Statement of Arms belonging to the Expedition of Tampico, viz:

Muskets, in hands of troops,	81
Do. surplus, among which some require repairs,	85
Sabres and Swords,	35
Cartridge boxes,	67
Flints,	800
Bayonets and sword belts,	40
Drums,	2
Bugles,	1

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
(Signed) Geo. Fisher, Secretary.
Quintana, 9th Dec. 1836.

NO. IV.

A Statement of the casualties which happened to the expedition against Tampico.

Died in the action,	8
Dispersed and taken prisoners there,	25
Died by sickness,	3
Dismissed from service as useless,	10
Discharged the marine corps,	15
Total number missing,	61

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
(Signed) Geo. Fisher, Secretary.
Quintana, 9th Dec. 1835.

NO. V.

A Statement of the actual physical force of the Expedition against Tampico, as reported to-day, viz:

COMPANY OF GRENADIERS OF THE FEDERATION.

Captain,*	1	
Lieutenant, 1st,	1	
Do. 2d,	1	
Do. 3d,	1	
Orderly Sargeant,	1	
2d Sargeants,	2	
Corporals,	4	
Drummer,	1	
Soldiers,	53	65

COMPANY OF LIBERTY—(FRENCH.)

Captain,†	1	
Lieutenant, 1st,	1	
Do. 2d,	1	
Orderly Sargeant,	1	
2d Sargeants,	2	
Corporals,	4	
Soldiers,	14	24

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* Capt. John M. Allen. † Capt. F. Lambert.

COMPANY OF ARTILLERY—(MEXICANS.)

Captain,‡	1	
Lieutenant, 1st,	1	
Do. 2d,	2	
Corporals,	3	
Soldiers,	6	13

GENERAL STAFF.

General,	1	
Colonel,	1	
Major,	1	
Captain,	2	
Lieutenant, 1st,	1	
Do. 2d,	3	
Surgeon,	1	
Secretary,	1	11
Total number of force,		1 3

Note—The two former Companies, viz: The company of Grenadiers and that of the Sharp Shooters, have been united into one, under the name of the Company of Grenadiers of the Federation.

From the original force there remain 100 men, and with the 13 who joined the expedition at Tampico, the present actual force is 113 rank and file.

(Signed) JOSE ANTONIO MEXIA.
(Signed) GEO. FISHER, Secretary.
Quintana, 9*th Dec.* 1835.

DOCUMENT NO. 9.

QUINTANA, 7th Dec. 1835.

Your Excellency:

The enclosed Document is a copy of the Proclamation which I directed to the inhabitants of the Republic the day after my landing on the coast of Tampico, which your Excellency may cause to be printed, if thus disposed.

I am your Excellency's most ob't serv't.

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.

To His Excellency, the Governor of Texas,
San Felipe de Austin.

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‡ Capt. Luis Guerra.

PROCLAMATION.

The citizen José Antonio Mexia, Brigadier General of the Army of the Federal Republic, to his fellow countrymen.

1. Fellow Citizens—Banished the country more than a year since, by the atrocious perfidy of Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who, committing a treason towards his duties, has placed the triumph in the hands of the Ecclesiastico-military party. I have been observing from my retirement the heap of evils which has been preparing for you, and the intrigues and iniquities which have been put into action to destroy your liberty and to ruin your institutions.

2. It was obvious to the views of the servile party to disorganize the principles to gain their end, and for that purpose they directed their attacks against the sovereignties of the States, by dissolving their Legislatures, imprisoning their Governors* and disarming their militia, which, at all times, was the bulwork of the liberties of the country. The arbitrary power of *force* has usurped the laws, and the caprice of the DICTATOR has ruled the destinies of the nation.

3. A Congress null and void, and elected without the constitutional formalities in which the most criminal men in the Republic occupied seats, has overturned all the elements of order, has demoralized the sanctuary of the laws, and instead of *sustaining* the fundamental code, which they have sworn, at the time of entering upon the discharge of the duties of their offices, to *support*, and cause to be supported, are the first ones to *crouch* to the ambitious views of the USURPER.

4. Those States which, like Zacatecas, have dared to raise their voice in favor of their rights, have been invaded by brutal force; their most illustrious citizens have been put to death, their treasures and property robbed, and finally to their legal authorities have been substituted governments *entirely military*. The only one which has as yet not shared the same fate is that of "Coahuila and Texas," *in that part* where the DICTATOR's iron rod did not yet reach.

5. In Texas, liberty as yet is enjoyed; *there* the Federation is yet preserved; and the cause *there* sustained, at this time, *is that* of every Mexican who loves his country and her institutions. The present ruling government of the country

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* See C., Document No. 10, paragraph 3.

is *there* disavowed,* because it is null in all its parts, arbitrary, treacherous, and finally usurping.

6. Being convinced that it is time to put a barrier to the retrograding march of the Centralists, I have concluded to come, to lend you my support to avenge your offended rights. A small number of inhabitants of Texas† accompany me, who, sympathizing with you, have left their homes, and are fighting for the common cause.

7. It now behooves you to make a suitable return for this generous service, by uniting with them,‡ and disdaining the perverse insinuations of those whose object is to deceive you, by giving them the coloring of being foreigners, who came to invade your country for other purposes than that which I announce you. Their MOTTO is mine: "*The Federal Constitution and a disavowal of all the acts of the usurping administration.*" This is what they defend, and this is the plan which your friend proposes to you.

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
(Signed) GEO. FISHER, Secretary.
In Camp at the bar of Tampico, 15th Nov. 1835.
A true copy of its original in Spanish, which I certify.
(Signed) GEO. FISHER, Secretary.
Quintana, 7th Dec. 1835.

DOCUMENT NO. 10.

QUINTANA, 7th December, 1835.

Your Excellency:

I herewith enclose to your Excellency a copy of a Proclamation which the contemptible commandant of Tampico, Gomez, issued the day after our invasion, of which I have given your Excellency an account in a separate communication of this day; by it your Excellency will be informed of the vile principles cherished by the enemy we are combatting, relative to the sacred cause we defend.

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* See D., Document No. 26, paragraph 2. †See D., Document No. 4, second part—"*Efficient Emigrants will sail for Tampico.* ‡ See C., Document No. 10, paragraph 8.

I am your Excellency's most ob't serv't,
(Signed) JOSE ANTONIO MEXIA.
To His Excellency the Governor of Texas,
San Felipe de Austin.

SUPPLEMENT

To the Gazette of Tamaulipas, No. 475.

HURRAH FOR OUR COUNTRY!!!

GREGORY GOMEZ PALOMINO, Military Commandant of *Santa Anna, of Tamaulipas.*[*]

1. FELLOW CITIZENS—A war truly national is provoked by the most ferocious vandalism. The honor, decorum and integrity of the nation forces us to adopt all the effective means that the urgency of the case requires, until the supreme government, in due time, shall revenge the terrible and immense insult of the unfortunate nights of the 15th and 16th of the present month. My heart enjoys a jubilee in witnessing the valiant defenders, to say all the inhabitants of this city; the general noble indignation, the decision and patriotic enthusiasm, together with the warlike fury demonstrated by you in the moment of danger, are clear indications of the fate that awaits this handful of pirates, the most indecent vermin of our neighboring country; they effected a landing on our coast through the black perfidy of the garrison at the bar.

2. Fellow Citizens—this piratical invasion is a thousand times more odious than that of a Spanish one; it is the same faction[†] that, in Texas, attacks the national integrity. They are headed by the proscribed unnatural Mexicans Antonio Mexia and Martin Peraza, the principal authors of this rebellion, and their atrocious and bloody conduct, since their arrival, most evidently manifests that which may be expected from their domination. Without the smallest notice of their views, without any previous manifestation of the cause or motive that induced them, in the obscurity of the night, to make an

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[*] The "City of Tampico," (the new name of) see C., Document No. 2, paragraph 3, relative to changing names of towns and cities.

[†] See D., Documents Nos. 4 and 5, paragraph 3.

unexpected attack, like unto assassins, on this pacific neighborhood, this valiant garrison has stopped, dispersed and destroyed them, shewing them the most palpable deception of their criminal enterprize, and their odious and detestable conduct, the town became furiously alarmed and offered, with a noble ardor and holy zeal, to sacrifice themselves for the honor, decorum and integrity of the nation, rather than to succumb to such a paricidical enterprize.

3. Fellow Citizens—with your assistance this place is impregnable; you have anticipated, and even exceeded, my expectations; your enthusiasm has preceded my deliberations, presenting yourselves as worthy members of the Mexican nation, we may bid defiance with such heroic defenders to all the enemies that may present themselves. We will revenge the insult and the decorum of the nation, and in a short time a due chastisement awaits them. May the supreme government live—May the national integrity live.

Santa Anna of Tamaulipas, Nov. 18, 1835.
(Signed) GREGORY GOMEZ.

A true copy from its original in Spanish, which I certify.
(Signed) GEO. FISHER, Secretary.
Quintana, 7th Dec. 1835.

DOCUMENT NO. 11.

COLUMBIA, 15th Dec. 1835.

1. By Mr. Powers I have received the official note of the honorable the General Council of the Provisional Government of Texas, containing the resolutions passed on the 10th inst. informing me of the actual state of the campaign, and inviting me, together with the brave officers and men under my command, to proceed to Bexar, by way of Goliad, and there to co-operate with the "*volunteer army of the people.*"

2. As my coming to Texas has been with the object of assisting the Federal cause, and as no other motive is directing my actions than the public welfare, I have caused that the dispositions of the honorable the General Council shall be complied with, although his Excellency the Governor has not

deemed it expedient to manifest to me his opinion on the subject.

3. Part of my forces have already marched, the day before yesterday, direct by land to the camp; and the other part went yesterday to Velasco, for the purpose of taking therefrom two brass culverines of the force of 12 pounders, 200 cannon balls, 78 cannisters brass grape, shot with 1,500 weight, 100 muskets and bayonets, and other articles of war, and to convey them to the camp by way of the Copano and Goliad.

4. I am returning, also, to Velasco, with Gen. Austin,* and from thence I shall communicate to the honorable the General Council, and to the Executive, my further proceedings.

I am, with high esteem, your most ob't serv't.

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.

To the Hon. James W. Robinson,
Lieut. Governor and *ex officio* President of the
General Council of the Provisional Gov. of Texas,
San Felipe de Austin.

DOCUMENT NO. 12.

PROCLAMATION.

Gen. José Antonio Mexia, to the besieged forces in Bexar.

1. Soldiers and old Companions in arms—My want of health prevents me from appearing personally before you, for the sole object of which I came to Texas, where the Mexican liberty, the Federal Constitution, and the rights of insulted and injured citizens, are defended against servile ambition.

2. In defence of these same rights, the fourth battalion† have accompanied me in our movements on Queretaro, Silão and Guanaxuato in 1833, and the same a long time in the presidial campaigns of that period. In the year of 1832, they assisted at the siege of San Luis Potoso, in support of the

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* See D., Document No. 13, paragraph 10.

† The fourth battalion infantry was one of the corps composing the army under the command of General Mexia in 1833, against the Gens. Arista and Duran, who proclaimed Santa Anna DICTATOR.

same principles, with an officer who now abandons them, and uses them as instruments in supporting the views of the aristocratic party.

3. Companions! They deceive you, who inform you that the Texians wish a separation from the Mexican Federation, therefore do not believe it; what they desire is what I and all Federalists desire, that is the Constitution of 1824, and that we should not be governed neither by Friars nor by Aristocrats.

4. That the nation may enjoy liberty, and that the power of a Dictator should not impose upon us the yoke of slavery, the resistance that you are making in the besieged city, is in every respect criminal, and the only effect it will produce is, your ruin, and the ruin of the soldiers, that I know are the friends of liberty; the knowledge of which grieves my heart.

5. Mexicans! In the field there are multitudes of soldiers, chiefs and officers, with whom you should unite; do so, and you will accord with my views, which is to strengthen the lines of the Federalists.

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
Brazoria, 15*th Dec.* 1835.

My friend Viesca—You will have this printed, and sent to the camp, in order that Peraza or Montero would send it to Ugartechea, and to the boys of the Morelia battalion, who are good soldiers, and I know they will be glad to see it.

Yours,
(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.
A true copy of the original.
(Signed) GEO. FISHER, Secretary.

DOCUMENT NO. 13.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

COLUMBIA, Dec. 14, 1835—*at night.*

To the Provisional Government of Texas:

1. On my arrival here this afternoon, I met Gen. Mexia, Col. Geo. Fisher and Col. Pettus, on horse-back, starting for San Felipe.

2. The first, informed me that the principal object of his journey to San Felipe was, to inform the Provisional Government of the nature of his relations, and of the situation of things in the interior. As these matters are of the greatest importance, he returned with me to this place, and we have had a conference of much interest to the general good of the cause we are defending, but more especially to Texas. He has shown me his correspondence with persons of the highest standing, especially a letter which he received a few days since, by a confidential express, from the interior.

3. I have not time to write fully on this all important subject, nor will my health (exhausted as I am by the ride down) permit it, or to enter into long details, which I will do from my brother-in-law's or from Velasco. I will, therefore, at present, merely say that the general good seems to require:

4. 1st. That Gen. Mexia should return with as little delay as possible to New Orleans, where his presence is necessary for the furtherance of the plans and combinations that are made and maturing in the interior, in favor of Federalism, and of Texas. These plans are very extensive, and are calculated to cover and secure Texas effectually, provided we adhere *strictly*, in words, acts, and deeds, to the Declaration of the Consultation of 7th November last.

5. 2d. That as a part of his troops marched yesterday (Capt. Allen's Company) for Bexar, the balance should proceed to Copano by water, for which purpose they have gone to Velasco; and should take the two long brass sixes and two iron ones, and the arms and shot, which will be very useful, either in the siege of Bexar or in other operations in that quarter.

6. 3d. That as he has spent $18,000 in this expedition, and places the cannon (the two brass ones cost $400 each) and shot, of which there is a good supply, at the disposition of the Provisional Government of Texas, to be used in defence of the common cause, at least one thousand dollars should be furnished him, to meet his present exigencies, for he is without a dollar.

7. He requests me to say, that whether he goes to New Orleans, or where ever he may be, he wishes to be considered a citizen of Texas. He has a considerable interest in this country.

8. I am more and more convinced every day, and especially on calm reflection, during a solitary ride down here, that the political position of Texas should continue, as established by the Declaration of 7th Nov. last. This Declaration secures to Texas *every thing*, and without any hazard for it, satisfies the Federal party, and is sufficient to secure their support and co-operation—should the Federal system fall, the 5th article is a Declaration of Independence, as a matter of course. I think that a Constitution ought to be formed, and a permanent government established, on the basis of said Declaration, and that the Provisional Government should *not legislate any more*, if possible to avoid it.

9. A change of the basis now, to that of Independence, would give us no more than is secured by the Declaration, provided a Constitution is formed, but it would injure us abroad, by giving an idea that we are unstable in our opinions, and it would paralize the efforts of the Federal party, which are now in our favor, and, no doubt, turn them against us. Texas ought, therefore, to adhere rigidly and firmly to the Declaration of 7th November, and the public acts should correspond with it, in *words* and in *objects*, without regarding the opinions of excited moments, no matter by whom expressed. These are my firm convictions, after the most calm reflections.

10. Gen. Mexia is compelled to go to Velasco, to make arrangements to start his men to Copano, under the command of Col. Peraza, in case he does not go himself. From that place I will inform you of his final conclusions—these will be made with a view to the good of Texas—of this you need have no doubt whatever.

11. I am told that letters of *recent* date have been received from persons of high standing and correct information, as to Mexican and Texas politics, and as to the opinions with men of judgment in the U. States, which say, "make no change in your Declaration of 7th November, and do not even pronounce the word Independence in a whisper."

12. I have given you my opinions frankly—will write again from Velasco. In the mean time, I recommend that some provision be made, if any can be, to supply Gen. Mexia with $1,000. I go below early to-morrow morning.

Yours, respectfully,

(Signed) S. F. AUSTIN.

13. I will add, I have full confidence in the good faith and sincerity of Gen. Mexia, in his efforts and desires to serve the cause of Texas.

14. The address to the Mexican people* should be sent into the interior by every possible means. Send a number to McKinney for me and Mexia, and send them to Goliad, Bexar and Nacogdoches, and every where.

(Signed) S. F. A.

15. I think the salvation of Texas may, in a great degree, depend on adhering to the Declaration of 7th November, and on enlisting the Federal party in our favor. I repeat this idea so often, because I am satisfied *much* depends on it.

16. I have marked this letter "*confidential,*" because I do not wish that part of it that speaks of the interior, published in print; but if my opinions will do any good, as to adhering to the Declaration of 7th November, you can make any use of those opinions you may think proper.

(Signed) S. F. A.

DOCUMENT NO. 14.

[TRANSLATION.]

My Dear Viesca.—I return to day with Austin, to send from Velasco to Copano the troops, which are still at my command, and the cannon, and other effects which are there. I do not know whether I shall proceed in person, or return to New Orleans as my friends in Matamoros have requested me. I shall advise you of all from thence; and for the present, I request that you will cause all to be printed which I have remitted to the Government, *always omitting that part,* which may tend to disclose the combination made with Vital Fernandez.†

Yours affectionately,
"Signed," JOSÉ ANTOÑIO MEXIA.
Columbia, 15th December, 1835.

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* See D., Document No. 12.

† Governor of the State of Tamaulipas.

DOCUMENT NO. 15.

[TRANSLATION.]

COLUMBIA, 15th Dec. 1835.

Augustin Viesca, Esq.,

1. DEAR FRIEND AND SIR—Yesterday we left here, with directions to your place, and at the distance of about one half mile, we met Col. Austin, with whom we returned here.* To day we leave here by land to Brazoria and Velasco, according to the Communications of Gen. Mexia, to your Government.†

2. I request, that, in conjunction with our friend Juan Antonio Padilla, you will cause the publication of all the official communications directed to the Executive, and to the General Council of your Government by Gen. Mexia, in order that the sound intentions of the Expedition against Tampico may be made manifest to the People of Texas and to the Federalists of Mexico, that it may serve them as a zest for a movement in the Interior, particularly Gen. Mexia's Proclamation,‡ directed from the Bar of Tampico to his fellow countrymen; also that of the Commandant Gomez.§ that the people of Texas may be acquainted with the opinion which prevails among the Mexican aristocracy, in regard to them. Without any more, I am affectionately yours,

(Signed,) GEO. FISHER.

A true translation of *my original* letter in Spanish which I certify.

GEO. FISHER.

DOCUMENT NO. 16.

QUINTANA, 29th December, 1835.

To the Provisional Government of Texas:

1. I take much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your adoption of the Report of the Committee to whom was referred the letters of Gen. Mexia and others, really it relieved my feelings very much in deed. You may imagine my

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* See D. Document No. 13, paragraph 1.

† See D. Document No. 11, paragraph 4.

‡ See D. Document No. 9.

§ ibid. Document No, 10.

situation and feelings, how very disagreeable when in the morning previous to receiving your instructions, Gen. Mexia had placed in my possession, subject to your orders, the very articles which you ordered me to take possession and detain. When I received your orders I was much pressed with business and had not a moment to reflect. Mexia does not know and I hope never will of the order. I have abundance of evidence that he is wholly devoted to our cause, and could have been and can yet be very useful to us by uniting himself with the Governor of Tamaulipas and others who have influence in Mexico, and procuring means, and preserving the credit of Texas, and keeping her free from debt. We have some gentlemen, however, who are engaged in preaching a crusade through the country against all Mexicans and in favor of immediate Declaration of Independence, procuring signatures of volunteers, and travellers who have not been three days in the country, and the *slavish* printer of Brazoria does not publish any thing without the inspection and sanction of those men when they are in his reach; of this we have facts conclusively proven.

2. I am not one of those who claims any special privileges for having lived on poor doe and layed on the ground, but I really think a few months residence should be necessary before men should be so very active and warm in pointing out to the people what course to persue. If we are people of ordinary intellect such presumption is insulting to our understanding, and if we have no such intellect we do not deserve to be informed by Strangers, for we should need a prompter at our elbows all the time, or we would constantly run into error.

3. Mexia received almost direct insult from some of our citizens, and not receiving any Communication from that Government mortified him intensely, yet he said, nothing was a burthen to him in sustaining the cause of Constitutional principles against Centralism. If I can spare time I will try and come up, in a few days. Very respectfully your obedient servant,

(Signed,) THOS. F. McKINNEY.

DOCUMENT NO. 17.

STATEMENT OF PEDRO JULIAN MIRACLE.

[TRANSLATION.]

Information given by Julian Miracle.

1. That he left Mier, on the Rio Grande, on the 19th ult., and was despatched by Canales* (a lawyer of talent and influence,) and by Molano, (formerly Lt. Governor of the State of Tamaulipas,) Tobar, (formerly a Senator of the Federal party in Congress,) and several other men, of influence, who live in Matamoros and other parts of Tamaulipas. The objects of his mission are to see Governor Viesca and Zavala, and ascertain from them, what was the character and intentions of the Revolution in Texas, for so many reports have reached them on the subject that they were in doubt.†

2. He states that Canales had two hundred men at a place called Palo Blanco, this side of the Rio Grande within two days march of San Patricio on the Nueces, that Molano and Tobar who live in Matamoros, have every thing arranged with the principal inhabitants of that place to take up arms, the moment all is ready. That the Governor of the State of Tamaulipas, Fernandez had an arrangement with Gen. Mexia to join the Cause;‡ that Gen. Lemus§ and his brother, and many others of the principal inhabitants of New Leon, are also in the Combination, and many of the officers who are now on the march against Texas. That the Company of troops at Lipantitlan or San Patricio, are also gained over, and ready to join Gonzales,‖ or Canales when called on. He also says that the States of Jalisco, better known here by the name of Guadalaxara, had refused to sub-

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* Gen. Canales, the *present* commander-in-Chief of the Federal Army of Rio Grande.

† See C. Document No. 10, paragraph 1.

‡ See D. Document No. 7, paragraph 3.

§ See C. Document No. 12, paragraph 4.

‖ Col. Gonzales, who escorted Gov. Viesca into Texas, escaping from Monclova after his arrest by Gen. Cos, in 1835. See D. Document No. 25, paragraph 3.

mit to the decree of the 3d of October,* and that General Montenegro of the liberal party, had defeated General Paredes, in Jalisco: also that the people of Morelia had remonstrated against it, and were preparing to resist.

3. He states that the reinforcements, which are coming to Cos, left La Punta de Lampazos on the 10th November for Laredo, where they would probably arrive on the 18th or 19th—that it consisted of about 100 troops and 300 recruits, who are brought, or *tied*, under the command of Sanchez. The regiment of Dolores of regular troops, under the command of Gen. Ramirez Sesma, was daily expected to join Sanchez at Laredo, and that 100 men, with one carronade 7 inch calibre, had left Matamoros with $40,000,† for Laredo, to join Sanchez; that from the time all those different corps had been in motion, they ought to have united at Laredo, and be now on the march between that place and Bexar. That Canales, Molano, Tobar, Lemus, and all the other liberals, were only waiting to hear from Gov. Viesca, or Zavala, or both, as to the objects of the revolution in Texas. Should it be to sustain the Federal system, they will all unite, and rise *en masse*, take Matamoros, attack the troops that are coming on against Texas, revolutionize the whole State of Tamaulipas, appropriate the proceeds of the Custom House at Matamoros and Tampico to the expenses of the war, &c.

4. They all admit that Texas ought to declare Independence, in case the Central Government is firmly established, but that she ought first to make an effort, in union with the Liberals, to save the Federal system. Such, in substance, is the information given by Captain Miracle. He was an officer of the army of Zacatecas, is a Columbian by birth. Gov. Viesca has confidence in him.

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* A Decree passed by the Mexican Congress, on the 3d Oct. 1835, changing the Federal to a Central form of Government, and converting the States into Territories.

† See D., Document No. 21—preamble.

DOCUMENT NO. 18.

HEAD QUARTERS, one mile above Bexar,
November 1, 1835.

(EXTRACT.)

To the President of the Consultation of Texas:

"I think it would be advisable to place Gov. Zavala as President of the Convention, and to send for Gen. Mexia. I merely make the suggestion."

(Signed) S. F. AUSTIN.

DOCUMENT NO. 19.

HEAD QUARTERS, Nov. 6, 1835.

(EXTRACT,)

To the President of the Consultation of Texas:

"I know of no movement that could serve Texas, so effectually, as the expedition against Matamoros or Tampico, by General Mexia."

(Signed) S. F. AUSTIN.

I, the undersigned, acting Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas, certify that the foregoing forty-four pages (all attached together under the seal of the Department of State) are correctly copied from original documents on file in said Department.

Given at Houston, under my hand and seal of office, this fifth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine.

NATH'L AMORY, Act'g Sec'y of State.

DOCUMENT NO. 20.

Resolved, That William Pettus, the contractor of the volunteer army, in conjunction, and with the advice of T. F. McKinney, be directed to make such provisions for General Mexia, and his command, at the mouth of the Brasos, as will enable them to proceed into the interior, &c., with the object of carrying the war into the enemy's country; and that Gen. Mexia be required to report his plan of operations, through the said contractor, in writing, to the Provisional Government of Texas.

San Felipe de Austin, Dec. 6, 1835.

(Signed) JAMES W. ROBINSON,
Lieut. Gov. and ex officio Pres't of Gen. Council.
E. M. PEASE, Sec'y of Gen'l Council.

Passed by a constitutional majority, my veto to the contrary notwithstanding.*

(Signed) HENRY SMITH, Governor.
CHAS. B. STEWART, Secretary of Executive.

DOCUMENT NO. 21.

Whereas, the Provisional Government of Texas have received information, of which there is no doubt, that the enemy have large reinforcements on the road to our frontiers, with whom there is *forty thousand dollars*† in money, and if the same is not cut off, or prevented from uniting with the forces now at Bexar, our small but patriotic army will be compelled to retire, being overpowered by four-times their numbers:—Therefore,

1. *Be it resolved by the General Council of the Provisional Government of Texas*, That Gen. Mexia be, and he is hereby invited, together with the brave officers and men under his command, to repair immediately to Bexer, by the way of Goliad, and there co-operate with the volunteer army of the people.

2. *Resolved*, That an express be dispatched immediately to Gen. Mexia, with a copy of this resolution.

3. *Be it Resolved*, That the services of Col. Power be accepted, and that he be requested to repair immediately to

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* See Ordinances and Decrees of the Provisional Government—page 57.

† See D., Document No. 17, paragraph 3.

Velasco, or any other point, and wait on Gen. Mexia with a copy of the resolution passed this day, requesting Gen. Mexia to proceed to Bexar, and to accompany the expedition, and extend all the aid in his power, with authority to draw on this Government for any amount of money necessary in forwarding the objects of said resolutions.

Passed at San Felipe de Austin, Dec. 10th, 1835.

(Signed) JAMES W. ROBINSON,
Lieut. Gov. and ex officio Pres't of Gen. Council.
E. M. PEASE, Sec'y of Gen'l Council.
Approved Dec. 12, 1835.*
(Signed) HENRY SMITH, Governor.

DOCUMENT NO. 22.

(EXTRACT)

Of the Journal of the proceedings of the General Council of the Provisional Government of Texas, page 173.

COUNCIL HALL, San Felipe de Austin,
December 17, 1835—9 A. M.

Mr. Power, who had been authorized to aid General Mexia, to proceed to Bexar, made the following REPORT, which was accepted:

"I have called on General Mexia, at Columbia; he has declined to go to Bexar to join with our people. His object is to go to Copano to join with the two hundred Mexicans who are at Palo Blanco,† and from thence to Matamoros, if possible. Mr. Fisher, who is acting Secretary to the General, stated to me that the General could not place his military character at stake, by accepting a command under the Provisional Government of Texas, as Mr. Viesca is not Governor. I further understood, that General Mexia will be here in a short time, with a view of seeing the Governor and Council, in hopes that they will place armed vessels to blockade the ports of Vera Cruz and Tampico, and order all vessels bound for said ports to Matamoros, where they can discharge their cargoes, as there seems to be no doubt of the latter port falling into the hands of the Liberal party. Mr. Fisher further stated that he was bearer of despatches to Gen. Mexia;* that in February next there is a general plan of revolutionizing all over Mexico. Under these circumstances, I thought it most prudent to return and inform the Council, and subject myself to their further orders on this subject."

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* See Journal of the proceedings of the General Council of the Provisional Government, page 134.

† See D., Document No. 17, paragraph 2.

(Signed) JAMES POWER.

DOCUMENT NO. 23.

(EXTRACT)

Of the Report of the Committee, which was adopted†.

"Your select committee, to whom was referred the letters of Gen. Mexia, and others, *report:* "That on examining all the papers and documents concerning the plans of co-operating with and proposals of assistance to the people of Texas, from Gen. Mexia and others, Mexican Liberals,

They would advise that the order from the General Council to Thomas F. McKinney, of the 17th inst., be countermanded, as your committee can find no reason for declining the aid of Gen. Mexia, or the aid and co-operation of any Mexican Liberal, whose cause is our cause, as opposed to military despotism; and advise that the advances made to Gen. Mexia, by the Government agents, be respected. But your committee are under the necessity of recommending to this council the avoidance of future responsibilities and advances, on account of our Mexican fellow citizens, whose interest are directing their efforts against Centralism, in common with ourselves."

December 23d, 1835.

(Signed) D. C. BARRETT,
Chairman of Select Committee of Five.

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* See D., Document No. 7, paragraph 3.

† See Journal of the General Council of the Provisional Government, page 194.

DOCUMENT NO. 24.

(EXTRACT)

Of the Report of the Committee on the State and of Judiciary.[*]

To the Hon. the General Council of the
Provisional Government of Texas:

Your committee on State and Judiciary, to whom were referred certain communications of Thomas F. McKinney, declining the appointment of Commissary General, and in relation to Gen. Mexia, respectfully *report:*

"As regards the communication of General Mexia, your committee do not incline to censure any of the proceedings of this body, in relation to him, acting as they did, from information received at different times, showing indecision in the character and determination of Gen. Mexia, and hearing his conduct complained of by those who had been under his command; every action of this House, in relation to this matter, has resulted from a sense of duty to the country. But your committee are clearly of opinion that the "DECLARATION" of Nov. the seventh, and ORGANIC LAW, which constitutes the basis of the "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT" of Texas, and the solemn obligations of the members who compose that government, to sustain its principles in spirit and in letter, are fundamental principles that must be observed, as well for the present safety of our citizens, and future hopes of security to the country, as for the conscientious fulfilment of the duties they assume. And whatever may be the *private feelings* in regard to any other policy, all attempts to sustain principles, and carry into effect plans, differing from that already adopten, would be, in the minds of your committee, in the highest degree *criminal* in any officer, who has assumed the responsibilities of acting under its provisions and directions. Our course, therefore, is a plain one, while supporting the Republican principles of the Constitution of 1824, which places us as one of the belligerents in a civil war, *we are required to cooperate and act in concert with all Mexican citizens, also favorable to the Confederation, and opposed to the Central form of Government;* in doing this we fulfil a paramount duty, and pursue the dictates of the clearest policy for *sustaining Texas in her present dangerous conflict.*"

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[*] See Journal of the General Council of the Provisional Government, page 254.

(Signed) D. C. BARRETT,
Chairman of committee on State and Judiciary.
Council Chamber, San Felipe de Austin, Jan. 3, 1836.

DOCUMENT NO. 25.

(EXTRACT)*

Of the charges and specifications preferred against Henry Smith, Esq. Governor of the Provisional Government of Texas, under the eleventh section of the Organic Law, by a committee appointed by the General Council for that purpose.

CHARGE SECOND.

1. "For neglecting to support the Declaration of the Consultation of the chosen Delegates of all Texas in General Convention assembled, and for endeavoring to prevent the General Council from carrying into effect, especially the second article, as adopted by the said Convention, November theseventh, 1835."

CHARGE SECOND.

2. *Specification 1st.* That the said Henry Smith, as Provisional Governor aforesaid, has neglected and refused to cooperate with the Mexican citizens opposed to Centralism, and endeavored to prevent the General Council from sending support and assistance to members of the Mexican Republic, as especially extended in the second article of the Declaration of November seventh, 1835.

3. *First.* By throwing difficulties and obstacles in the way of Colonel Gonzales, and the party under his command, who, late in the month of November, asked the support and assistance of the Provisional Government, which was extended to him by the General Council; the said Henry Smith, Provisional Governor as aforesaid, opposing the Council in

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* See Journal of the proceedings of the General Council of the Provisional Government, page 304.

the measure, and intriguing and managing with the citizens to render this act of the General Council obnoxious, and by writing to the officer in command of the colonial troops that he had no faith in him, (Colonel Gonzales) and directing the said commander to keep a strict eye on him; and if he should seem not to act in good faith, to arrest him, and his men, disarm them, and hold them as prisoners of war, subject to his order; and,

4. *Second.* For attempting to throw obstacles and difficulties in the way of General Mexia, *to prevent him* in uniting in the general cause against Centralism, and endeavoring to thwart and prevent the General Council from performing *their duty* towards General Mexia and his men, *as required of them* by the second section of the Declaration of the 7th Nov. 1835.

DOCUMENT NO. 26.

"DECLARATION OF THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS," *in General Convention assembled, Nov. 7th,* 1835.

(EXTRACT.)*

1. Art. 2. That Texas is no longer morally or civilly bound by the compact of union, yet stimulated by the generosity and sympathy common to a free people, they offer their support and assistance to such of the members of the Mexican Confederacy as will take up arms against military despotism.

2. Art. 5. That they hold it to be their right, during the disorganization of the Federal system, and the reign of despotism, to withdraw from the union, to establish an independent government, or to adopt such measures as they may deem best calculated to protect their rights and liberties, but that they will continue faithful to the Mexican Government so long as that nation is governed by the Constitution and Laws that were formed for the government of the political association.

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* See Ordinances and Decrees of the Provisional Government—page 4.

3. Art. 8. That she will reward, by donation in lands, all who volunteer their services in her present struggle, and receive them as citizens.

DOCUMENT NO. 27.

(EXTRACT)*

Of the Report of the select committee, to whom was referred the several letters from Gen. Austin, and other officers of the Colonial army near Bexar, and sundry other communications and documents connected with our military operations, respectfully

1. REPORT.—"That the Communications of General Stephen F. Austin, of the 5th instant, present several matters interesting and important in our present attitude of resistance against the destroyers of our Constitution, and the principles of a military despotism. The subjects are first presented for your consideration, upon which your Committee deems it proper to report.

2. *First*, The granting letters of marque and reprisal to cruizers upon the high seas by the "Provisional Government of Texas." This Convention, in adopting the Declaration of the seventh November, have organised this power and the provisions of the Resolution constituting a Provisional Government, have vested this authority in the Governor and General Council, consequently these require no further action upon the subject by this house during its present session.

3. The *Second* contemplates an Expedition from New Orleans against Matamoros. This subject your Committee regards as *important* and *concur with the views of the Commanding General*,† as to its certain effects of crippling the enemy and destroying his movements. Your Committee, however, from Documents now in their possession, have it in their power to inform this house, that a small force of one hundred and fifty men commanded by General Mexia, and equipped at his own expense, has started from New Orleans for the Port of Tampico or Matamoros, and that a descent from that quarter, *from whatever source*, in the opinion of your Committee, will

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* See Journal of the General Council, page 303.

† See D. Document No. 19.

produce the consequences of annoying the enemy at an unexpected point, and *prevent reinforcements being sent to Bexar.* Should further operations, hereafter, seem expedient in aiding the enterprise of General Mexia, *it enters into the duties* of the Governor and Council of Texas.

Council Room Nov. 13, 1835.
(Signed,) D. C. BARRETT,
Chairman of the Committee.

DOCUMENT NO. 28.

GENERAL STAFF.

General Mexia's Expedition against Tampico in November, 1835.

1. Brigadier General Jose Antonio Mexia, Commander-in-Chief.
2. Major Charles Edward Hawkins, }
3. Capts. Frederick Hoppe & Plunkert, } Aids to the Commander-in-Chief.
4. Lieut. (1st.) Octave Blache, }
5. Col, Martin Peraza, 2d Commander.
6. Lieut. (2d,) Paul Larin, }
7. do. (2d) Stanislaus Perrussie, } Aids to the 2d Commander.
8. Lieut. Col. Ramon Soler, Adjutant General.
9. Lieut. (2d,) Charles Moro, Assistant Adjutant.
10. Lieut. Col. Geo. Fisher, Commissary Gen'l and Secretary.
11. Lieut. (2d) John Andrew Zambrano, Assistant Commissary and Secretary.
12. Lieut. (2d,) Leon Boyer, Quarter Master.
13. Doctor C. P. Heermans, Surgeon.

Adrien Aubry and Wm. M. Brigham, (Soldiers) Surgeons mates.
Major Charles Edward Hawkins, Commandant of Artillery.
Capt. John Hall, Master of Marine Department.

A true Copy of the original.
Quintana, 9th December, 1835.
GEO. FISHER, Secretary,

DOCUMENT NO. 29.

MUSTER ROLL.

Gen. Mexia's Expedition, against Tampico, in November, 1835.

Capt. John M. Allen, Joined Regular Army of Texas.
Capt. G. Diederick, do. do. do. do.
Capt. F. Lambert, Resigned at Velasco.
Lieut. F. W. Thornton, Joined Regular Army of Texas.
do. P. Girod, Resigned at Velasco.
do. —— Adam, do. do.
Orderly Serg't, E. D. Davis, Joined regular Army of Texas.
do. do. Henry Ruffier, Resigned at Velasco.
E. G. Grinnell, Discharged at Columbia.
M. Cooper, do. do. Brazoria.
H. Curry, Joined Regular Army of Texas.
M. Conway, Joined Regular Army of Texas.
S. T. Marks, left sick at Columbia.
G. W. Brown, Discharged at Brazoria.
M. B. Gallagher, do. do Columbia.
Joseph Sovereign, Joined the Navy of Texas.
J. Strode, Discharged at Velasco.
† Harris Blood, Leg broken in the battle and made prisoner.
J. H. Cooper. Discharged at Brazoria.
Elias Brush, Left sick at Columbia.
N. W. Brigham, Discharged at Brazoria.
J. B. Eddle, Left sick at Columbia.
C. Stewart, Joined R. A. T.
James Russell, Discharged at Columbia.
* Daniel Donnelly, Taken at Tampico.
*‡ R. P. Duncan, Killed in battle at Tampico.
C. Obenlindner. Left sick at Columbia.
* John Irish, Taken at Tampico.
Eli Phillips, Discharged at Columbia.
J. Gleeson, Joined R. A. T.
‡ —— Bragalino, Killed in battle at Tampico.
‡ P. Guyoit, Killed in battle at Tampico.
* C. Gross, Taken in battle at Tampico.
‡ S. Planchard, Killed in battle do.
A. Miller, Joined R. A. T.
* James Farrell, Taken at Tampico.
Joseph Watson, Joined R. A. T.
Daniel Buckley, do do do
Jacob Maybee, Discharged at Columbia.
J. Mumblin, Joined R. A. T.

James Welsch, Discharged at Columbia.
T. Clark, do do Velasco.
P. Farish, do do Brazoria.
V. Bromley, do do Columbia.
F. Somehallo, Left sick at Columbia.
* Andrew Helm, Taken at Tampico.
E. A. Jones, Discharged at Velasco.
J. H. Murray, do do Columbia.
S. M. Edwards, Left sick at do
W. Zimmermann, Discharged at Velaşco.
‡ J. Lindner, Killed in battle at Tampico.
C. W. Miller, Joined R. A. T.
G. W. Coghan, do do do do
E. Miller, Left sick at Columbia,
H. Polk, Discharged at Brazoria.
S. Pierce, do do Columbia.
* John M. Ives, Taken at Tampico.
J. R. Black, Discharged at Columbia.
Edward Lewis do do Velasco.
‡ J. F. Lewis, Killed in battle at Tampico.
* Isaac F. Leeds, Taken at Tampico.
R. McKaskill, Joined R. A. T.
* David Long, Taken at Tampico.
Wm. Baily, Joined R. A. T.
‡ M. C. Howard, Killed in battle at Tampico.
*† James McConnick, Taken at Tampico,
A. Edder, Wounded in Tampico,—Joined R. A. T.
R. McConnell, Discharged in Columbia.
J. S. Boyce, Left sick at Columbia.
P. Roach, Joined R. A. T.
J. Goslin, Discharged at Columbia.
L. Schultz, Left sick at do
‡ J. Hurwick, Killed in battle at Tampico.
* A. Clements, Taken do do do
* J. Cramp, do do do do
* L. M. Bellepont, do do do do
I. Baumgartner, Discharged at Brazoria.
R. N. McGee, do do Columbia.
* Mordecai Gist, Taken at Tampico.
* Geo. I. Iselin, do do do
* Edward Mount, do do do
W. R. B. Perkins, Died at Velasco.
* H. Wagner, Taken at Tampico.
B. Swell, Discharged at Columbia.
* F. Debois, Taken at Tampico,
R. Disney, Joined R. A. T.
‡ J. L. McManus, Killed in battle at Tampico.

R. P. B. Carter, Discharged at Columbia.
† J. Flemming, Taken at Tampico.
W. R. Hatfield, Joined R. A. T.
* Wm. H, Morris, Taken at Tampico.
* T. C. Whitaker, do do do
J. A. Fintch, Discharged at Velasco.
D. M. Kingsburry, Left sick at Columbia.
* L. Jacob, Taken at Tampico.
R, English, Discharged at Columbia,
B. F. Shaw, Discharged at Columbia.
C. B. Stewhrt, Joined R. A. T,
Warren Bingess, Discharged at Brazoria,
* T. W. Marrier, Taken at Tampico.
* W. C. Barclay. do do do
* Daniel Holt, do do do
* Wm. H. Mackey, do do do
* Jacob Morrison, do do do
R. Crittenden, Discharged at Velasco.
* J. K. Stewart, Taken at Tampico.
* T. H. Rogers, do do do
Luis Guerra, Joined R. A. T. (Fannin's Command.)
J. Lereche Gazzo, Discharged at Columbia.
James Barclay, do do do
A. Saiet, do do do
Auguste Bruant, do do do
Adolphe Rossier, do do do
* Auguste Sausseur, Taken at Tampico.
* Louis Demeussent, do do do
Adrien Aubry, Discharged at Velasco.

NOTE.—The above MUSTER ROLL although *imperfect*, is the best I could compile from the data in my possession, the ORIGINAL having been lost at Tampico, and at Quintana in December, 1835, it was impsssible to form a new one *complete*, owing to the sick and distressed state of the troops and their partial dispersion.

Those marked thus * were taken prisoners at Tampico, the day after the Battle, tried by a Court Martial, and shot on the 14th December, 1835, at 8 o'clock, A. M., except three marked thus † who died in the Hospital. Those marked thus ‡ were killed in the Battle.

Houston, October 22, 1839.

GEO. FISHER.

DOCUMENT NO. 30.

I, Citizen JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA, Brigadier General in the armies of the Mexican Federation, do certify, that Geo. Fisher joined me in New Orleans in the month of November last, and that after having contributed personally to the organization of the expedition, which was enlisted there under my orders, he accompanied me in the capacity of Secretary. That in that capacity he was at my side in Tampico and in Texas, and that his pure and disinterested management, his services and his activity, entitle him to the public consideration, to which I recommend him.

Quintana, (Texas,) 19*th Dec.* 1835.

(Signed) JOSÉ ANTONIO MEXIA.

A true translation of the original in my possession, which I certify. GEO. FISHER.

REPORT.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
House of Representatives, 10th Jan. 1840.

MR. SPEAKER—Your committee on military affairs, to whom the petition, and documents accompanying said petition, of Geo. Fisher, late Secretary to the expedition of General José Antonio Mexia, for himself and surviving members of said expedition, was referred, have had the same under consideration, and instructed me to report that said committee is well satisfied, from various proofs adduced to them, that the said prayer *is not without merit*, but at the same time the expedition so connected with it, is so detached from this Government, that, in the opinion of said committee it would be inexpedient *at this time*, to take further action thereon, and beg leave to be discharged from the further consideration of the same.

(Signed) W. M. WILLIAMS,
Acting Chairman.

The above is a correct copy of the Report.

(Signed) D. S. KAUFMAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Austin City, Jan. 19*th*, 1840.

THE MADISONIAN.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., FEBRUARY 5th, 1844.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN B. JONES.

Correspondence of the Madisonian.

HOUSTON, (TEXAS,) *January 2d*, 1844.

SIR: The all absorbing question of the day, viz: "THE ANNEXATION OF TEXAS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," prompts me to offer a few remarks on the present state of affairs in Texas, the United States and Mexico.

The obstinate determination of abolishing slavery in Texas on the part of Great Britain; the alleged claim of the British Government on Texas for lands amounting to several millions of acres, and the design to colonize the same with her emancipated blacks from West India Islands; the establishment of military colonies on the territory between the rivers Nueces and Grande, supported by her black regiments; and the project of her connecting the coast of her Texas territory with the Pacific Ocean, via the California and the Oregon Territory, thus putting an effectual barrier to all future intercourse between Mexico and the United States, by a military cordon drawn from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific, demand the *prompt* intervention of the United States—*peaceable*, if possible, or *armed*, if necessary—to admit Texas into the American confederation, to control the sovereignty of the country to the Rio Grande, and to secure the institutions of the United States, now so much menaced.

That Great Britain is on the eve of something of this kind, and that she is working through Texas, by means of Mexico, upon the destiny of the United States, there cannot be the least doubt. The late shipment of the twenty (20) pieces of field artillery from London for the Mexican Government is in part an evidence. The Mexican Government has more than an abundant supply of field and garrison artillery of the best kind, and nearly all of brass, in all parts of her territory. Whoever has been in the city of Mexico, Puebla, Perote, Xalapa, Vera Cruz, Tampico, San Luis Potosi, Matamoros, Monterey, Saltillo, Zacatecas, and Durango, will bear me out in truth of this statement; therefore the public exigency of the day, with an embarrassed treasury, and when at peace with all nations, including Texas and Yucatan, as the armistice (*nominal*) and the actual cessation of hostilities, with a previous manifestation of a desire to negotiate for permanent peace, will prove it does not warrant the large expenditure on the part of the Mexican Government for such, under all apparent circumstances, at present superfluous armaments.

The late decree of Santa Anna, closing the northern custom-houses to exterior trade, or, more plainly speaking, prohibiting to American citizens the importation of their goods into New Mexico, and thus cutting off a very lucrative trade to the people of the United States, particularly to St. Louis and Pittsburg, is a direct violation of the treaty of commerce between the United States and Mexico, wherein that trade is guarantied to the citizens of the United States during the existence of the said treaty.* The question now is, how can this step of the Mexican dictator be reconciled with the friendly feelings of Mexico towards the United States? and what are the urgent causes which require the enforcing of measures fraught with so much injury to the interest of the American citizens, and so beneficial to the British interest? Also, would he dare, under any other circumstances, to violate the stipulations of that treaty, unless instigated by British influence, and with the positive promise of being sustained in his measures by British arms?

The 20 pieces of artillery above cited are very probably destined for the army, to be stationed along the Rio Grande, in Texas, Chihuagua, and New Mexico, to sustain the dictator's NON-INTERCOURSE DECREE, the object of which, if not a positive pretext for an immediate open rupture with the United States, is at least calculated to throw so much American manufactures out of the markets of New Mexico, Chihuagua, Durango, &c., as heretofore supplied those countries, and for the purchase of which millions of dollars in specie and gold have been flowing into the U. S., to be superseded by British manufactures, through the ports of Tampico and Matamoros; and perhaps, if the country between the Nueces and the Grande be ceded to Great Britain, then through Brazo Santiago and Corpus Christi; thus the British Government will be not only able to open a *new* market for the consumption of her manufactures, but even import them through her own ports and territory into Northern Mexico, and thus drive the American manufacturer out of a market where he successfully competes with European fabrics.

According to the late news from Mexico, we learn that Santa Anna has had some disagreeable correspondence with Gen. Thompson, the American Envoy at Mexico, on the subject of the annexation of Texas to the United States. That this question will produce a very disagreeable correspondence between the Mexican Government and the representative of the United States there can be no doubt, because Mexico is actuated by the policy of Great Britain, in whose support the Mexican dictator confides strongly, to bid defiance to Texas and the United States; whereas, without this strong support, he would not dare broach the subject, because of his solemn promises to Gen. Jackson, at Washington city, in 1836. That Santa Anna is highly offended with the conduct of the people of the United States for affording timely and ample succors to the people of Texas, in their revolutionary struggles against Mexico, is known to the world by his own manifestations to the European Governments; and we have every reason to believe that he would not stop in any measures by which he could revenge himself upon the people of the United States, and that he would readily cooperate with Great Britain, or any other power, upon the plea of abolishing slavery, or any other, to excite a servile war on the western and southwestern frontier of the United States, by carrying on hostile movements through Texas, and dissolve the Union, a scheme which seems to be constantly occupying the attention of the British Government for rendering her East India possessions more available, and more profitable to the mother country, by banishing the culture of the sugar, coffee, cotton, and other tropical productions from the western hemisphere, by the operation of universal emancipation of slavery on the American continent, and the islands of the Atlantic and Ethiopian Oceans, thus bringing into activity the industry of Hindostan and Chin-India, and opening a profitable market for British manufactures in return for the agricultural products of those of her distant dominions, with the advantage of monopolizing the carrying trade exclusively by British shipping. Here is the secret of universal emancipation; here her design upon the United States, through the agency of Mexico, operating upon Texas, with the various minutiæ of prohibiting the American trade into Mexico, via Santa Fé and Texas.

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*EXTRACT from the 32d article of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, between the United States of America and the Mexican United States, concluded at the city of Mexico on the 5th April, 1831:

"And it is further agreed, that until the regulations for governing this interior commerce between the two nations shall be established, that the commercial intercourse between the State of Missouri, of the United States of America, and New Mexico, in the Mexican United States, shall be conducted as heretofore, each Government affording the necessary protection to the citizens of the other."

The United States have, at this moment, great reasons to be constantly on the *qui vive;* because, out of the present position of political affairs of Texas and Mexico, a question is growing, the final settlement of which will devolve upon the crowned heads of Europe. Great Britain feels a direct interest in it, of vital importance to her professed principles of universal emancipation. France has also a deep interest in the success of the British policy for acquiring territory, as with the British speed France keeps pace in her conquests of Algeria, Tunis, Tripoli and Barca, and the colonization of the Polynesian group of Islands. Russia, this colossus, keeps her Argus eyes, one upon Constantinople, and the other upon the Port of Bodega or Romanzoff, in the bay of Monterey, in Upper California. Austria, awakened by her enterprising merchants of Trieste and Venice, from her long lethargy, is looking upon Egypt and a passage through Syria and Persia, &c., into Hindostan. Prussia, in connection with the Hanseatic cities, is actively engaged in completing a system of free trade on the European continent, thereby, as much as possible, to exclude the British manufactures.

It does not require the foreknowledge of prophets, that unless Texas is immediately admitted into the American confederacy, and thus, becoming an integral part of the United States, placed beyond the cabal of the armed intervention of the crowned heads of Europe, her fate must be settled in an European Congress, as that of Greece, which was done by the Congress of Laybach and Verona, in 1821 and "22," and subsequently consummated by the triple-allied treaty of London of 6th July, 1827.

What step would, in such case, the United States take?—Offensive, preventing the European powers to interfere, when the whole plan is once matured, settled down, and determined to be carried out? Would she risk a war with the combined powers of Europe? It might be too late *then* to interfere. *Now* is the time, before things have gone too far, and beyond the reach of the United States. If Texas is immediately admitted into the Union, the European powers will, in all reasonable probability, with the exception of perhaps Great Britain, acquiesce in the measure, and the United States, with Texas, are strong enough for Great Britain, aided as she will be by Mexico, to settle the question. The United States must act, and act *quickly*. She cannot parry off the blow at her institutions without decisive *prompt* action.

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

GEO. FISHER.

THE PANAMA ECHO.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 1, 1850.

E. A. THELLER, Editor and Publisher.

☞The excitement that prevailed here two weeks ago, and the disastrous termination—the murdered victims—as well as the desire for vengeance, have in a measure calmed down. Men now follow their usual vocations, impressed with the idea that the law should take its course, and the murderers should be brought to justice, leaving all in the hands of the New Granadian authorities. How efficient they will be remains to be seen. One thing, however, is certain, that there is not now the slightest desire of the American population to interfere or impede the course of law and justice.

It might be thought best for us to leave the matter to rest, too, were it not that in the calm moments of reflection good advice might be given and received, and justice be done to many whom both our cotemporary and our own last sheet have forgotten to mention; we therefore hope that such scenes will never again be renewed, and that redress for grievances will be sought for and obtained from the proper authorities. We will not go into the primary causes that produced the outbreak at first, as both papers and all parties have admitted that the account given last week was perfectly correct, but will only give what we saw ourselves. During the time the attack was made on the printing office, we were, in company with two friends, visiting the ruins about the city. In passing through the native part of the city, we perceived hundreds of infuriated men and women rushing like demons towards the walls of the city. They were all armed with stones, knives, &c. We followed them leisurely, and saw them attack without distinction unoffending parties, that, like ourselves, had been collected there by curiosity. We feared then most for those of our countrymen who were encamped without the walls, and the emigrants who were then coming in from Gorgona and Cruces, some singly, and most all unarmed. A few rallied round us, and by keeping a bold front we slowly returned near to the French Consulate, and from thence to the *Plaza*, or Cathedral square, where we understood a meeting of Americans had been called. On our arrival, we perceived the Governor of the province was then addressing the assembly in Spanish, promising them that legal measures should be adopted to bring the authors of the outrage to condign punishment, and entreating them to abide the time with patience, and that he pledged them his honor justice should be done, etc. This speech of the Governor was translated by Col. Geo. Fisher, of Texas, now a sojourner here—a gentleman who then, and during the whole day, merited all praise for his conduct. Col. Fisher was followed by our worthy Consul, advising a present adjournment; which advice was listened to and followed by the mass, who dispersed peaceably, although news was brought each instant of outrage and murder beyond the walls.

Immediately after the adjournment, the Governor, the American Consul, accompanied by Col. Fisher, as volunteer interpreter, and two Americans, repaired to the suburbs, to quiet the assembled multitude of the Natives, who, excited now to the highest degree, had armed themselves with knives, swords, pistols, clubs, stones, etc., and were prepared to assault the Americans, who were in crowds upon the walls. The Governor addressed them in their own language, conveying to them the intelligence of the position of affairs; recommended to them obedience to the laws and respect to the authorities; told them what had been done by the respectable Americans, how all would be done peaceably, &c. By his persuasion they put away their missiles, and their belligerent attitude was changed at once to a peaceful assemblage.

After the Governor's address, the American Consul addressed them in English, stating the facts that his countrymen had agreed to, that the whole matter was to be left to the authorities of this country, and asked them if they would not do the same.

The purport of the Consul's speech being interpreted to them by Col. Fisher, the Natives shouted, cheered, and gave other demonstrations of joy, embraced the Governor, the Consul, and the interpreter, and all seemed content, and were about dispersing, when the whole scene changed as like a magic. Some foolish, reckless American fired from the ramparts and killed one of the Natives. At this occurrence the Natives again flew to their arms—again commenced the discharge of missiles. The cry of treason was heard, and a crowd rushed upon the Americans remaining around the Governor. A burly negro attempted to stab Col. Fisher, whereupon the Governor interposed his own body, it is said, to defend him. Mr. Turner, of the firm of Corwin, Brother & Co., was attacked in the same manner by a Native with a huge knife, but was saved by the daring of Wm. G. Hance, the keeper of the New York Hotel. Col. Fisher was bruised by stones thrown at him, as well as several bruises from blows of clubs, and the party of Americans coming out the gate was beaten back, and (why should we hide it?) turned their backs and ingloriously ran away, leaving their Consul and their friends to the power and mercy of an infuriated mob, now doubly daring from their success, and confident that they could drive the *Americanos* out of the country.

Many parties of Americans were severely beaten and stoned, but no lives were lost, with the exception of Mr. Sempler, who was killed at our office, and Mr. John Everett, of Cayuga county, N. Y., who was stabbed, and afterwards beaten to death by stones. The number of Natives killed has never been known; that they are many we do not believe; still it is not possible, from the firing, but that there was a number. We witnessed ourself two fall, and we heard of numbers of others.

Shortly after our return to town, the whole American population again met on the *Plaza*, and it was recommended by the Consul and others for a certain proportion of the Americans to enrol themselves as a patrol to defend the city, and keep peace and quietness, in concert with the Government soldiery; J. D. M. Ross, of Mobile, was chosen captain, and we had the honor to be appointed second in command. Watch and word was kept, although the Governor, when all was quiet, thought it best, probably, not to allow us the arms we were promised. He might have doubts, or he might not. However, we got no arms from the Government—yet all would have found them had there been a necessity for their use. The next day our poor countrymen were buried, and sleep "the sleep that knows no waking," while the murderers still walk about. The boy who stole the money was seen on Monday last in a village about three miles from the city, in company with four others, pursuing the occupation of a pig merchant.

We would not, as we said at first, have probably said aught of this matter, had it not been that we had seen the names of Col. Fisher, Gen'l Mosquera, Ex-president of the Republic of New Granada, who arrived on the spot and aided the Governor when everybody left him, and others, omitted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 1.

San Francisco, *May 13th*, 1856.

Dear Sir: Upon the eve of your departure for the Eastern States, permit us, as former members of the Board of Land Commissioners "to ascertain and settle private land claims in the State of California," to wish you a pleasant and prosperous voyage. At the same time we take pleasure in expressing our high appreciation of the skill and ability with which you discharged, first, the duties of clerk, and afterwards, from the 2d of February, 1852, those of the more responsible and laborious office of Secretary to the Board during the respective terms of our official connection with that commission, and until its final close, on the 4th of March, 1856.

Yours, with great respect,

(Signed) HARRY J. THORNTON,
JAMES WILSON,
R. AUG. THOMPSON,
THOMPSON CAMPBELL,
ALPHEUS FELCH,*
LOUIS BLANDING,
Late U. S. Associate Law Agent,
J. H. McKUNE,
Late U. S. Law Agent.

To George Fisher, Esq're,
Late Sec'y, &c.

*See letter No. 3.

No. 2.

General Land Office, *July 14th*, 1856.

Sir: In informing you of the receipt in fine condition of the voluminous manuscripts of the late Board of California Commissioners, permit me to express my admiration of the great skill and method evinced in the arrangement of the work, as well as the excellence of its mechanical execution.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your ob't serv't,
(Signed) JOS. S. WILSON, *Act'g Commissioner.*

George Fisher, Esq're,
Late Sec'y U. S. Land Commission, California.

No. 3.

Ann Arbor, *July* 25, 1856.

My Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your favor of the 14th instant, and assure you that I was glad to hear of your safe arrival on the Atlantic side of our wide nation. As you request, I have signed the document transmitted to me, and herewith return it to you*—an act which I have done with much pleasure and satisfaction. I hoped, when you made your excursion to the West, that you would come by the route passing by my residence, and that I should have the pleasure of a visit from you, but in this it seems I am destined to be disappointed. I cannot but trust, however, that it will be our good fortune again to meet, if not before your return to California, at least at no very distant day. The relations existing among us all who were connected with the arduous labors of the commission were of so friendly and pleasant a character, that we cannot readily forget each other, or ever cease to regard with interest the fortune of our former associates. May their future be ever blessed with prosperity and happiness.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

I do not know of anything now which will take me to California, and yet I am so well pleased with that country that it would not be surprising if I again visited it. Whether I do or not, I assure you, I have many pleasant recollections connected with San Francisco, and the many friends whose kindness and good companionship I there enjoyed. I shall at all times be glad to hear from you.

Truly your friend,

ALPHEUS FELCH.

GEO. FISHER, ESQ.

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[*] Ex-commissioner A. Felch having left San Francisco prior to May 13, 1856, it was necessary to send the Document (No. 1) to him for his signature, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, his residence.

No. 4.

HOUSTON, September 5, 1856.

COL. GEORGE FISHER.

RESPECTED SIR: Please accept the sincere thanks of the *"Houston Lyceum,"* for the magnificent present of books and manuscripts you were pleased to donate to it,[*] and be assured that we, the officers and members of said Lyceum, shall ever feel grateful to you for your kindness and generosity, and for the interest you exhibit for our welfare, and that of the cause which we are endeavoring to promote.

By order of the Lyceum.

W. G. PAINTER, *Secretary.*

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[*] Over 100 volumes miscellaneous books and manuscript in several languages.

No. 5.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
AUSTIN, *September* 15, 1856.

GEORGE FISHER, ESQ'R, *Houston.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 9th instant, tendering to the State, through me, THREE volumes of the *"Diario del Gobierno de la Republica Mexicana,"*[*] published in the city of Mexico, and embracing the period of our Revolutionary war, was received by last Friday's mail, and I regret *that I have been prevented from answering it sooner.*

It is certainly desirable that the State should possess the publication you so generously tender, and I with pride and gratitude accept it—with pride, because it falls to my lot to be in charge of the State Library when it is presented—with gratitude, because of the value of such an acquisition to my beloved State.

You will permit me to remark, that in characterizing it as an *humble* offering, you underrate your donation, aside from its usefulness in any future public or private undertaking of the history of Texas: an inquiry into our occupancy of the country, and our struggle to redeem and free it from oppression and misrule, it must prove a means of benefit to all who may seek information as to the rise, progress, and establishment of our Government, and of consolation and pride as showing the oppressions and injuries by which we were driven to rebel against the parent country, and *assume an independent stand among the nations of the world. It is useful sometimes for States,* like individuals, to be able to show, that in resistance to existing authority, and the assumption of independence, and a separate responsibility, they were justified by the improper conduct of the powers to which obedience was due.

I regard the work as one of much value, and esteem it as an enviable compliment, that to you will belong the honor of having procured and so long preserved it as an intended and patriotic tribute to your renowned and prosperous State.

You may place the books in the keeping of either the *Hon. E. A. Palmer*, or *F. R. Lubbock*, Esq'r, who will please receive and deliver them to the Governor, who will be in your city sometime in October next.

I am, with much respect and esteem,
Your ob't ser't, &c.,
EDWARD CLARK.

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[*] The official organ of the Mexican Government.

No. 6.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
AUSTIN, *March* 13, 1857.

GEORGE FISHER, ESQ'R, *California*.

DEAR SIR: Herewith I send you a commission* as commissioner of deeds, for Texas, in California. The accompanying law is the only one we have, I think, relating to commissioners of deeds, &c.; allow me to direct your attention to the 4th sec. of it.

Wishing you success and happiness in your new home,

I am, very truly, your friend and ob't ser't,
EDWARD CLARK.

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* Dated 12th March, 1857, for the full term of four years; signed by E. M. Pease, Gov'r, and countersigned by Edward Clark, Sec'y of State.

P. S.—Upon reading your letter again, I notice that you ask whether the papers presented to the State by you, and forwarded from Houston, have been received. I thought I had acknowledged their receipt, and must crave your pardon if I did not; they are carefully deposited as requested and intended by you. The copies of likenesses* sent have been disposed of as you wished. I am grateful to you for the one to myself, and shall carefully preserve it. I do not understand what pamphlet publication at this place you allude to as touching the duties of commissioner of deeds. I would take pleasure in forwarding it to you.

Very respectfully, &c.,

ED. CLARK.

**Vide* PORTRAITS AND MEMOIRS of *Eminent Americans*, in 4 vols., by John Livingston, New York; Vol. III, pp. 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446.—"GEORGE FISHER."

No. 7.

BALTIMORE, *April* 27, 1857.

GEO. FISHER, *Esqr.*

MY DEAR SIR and * * * * * * * * * *: I beg your pardon for my seeming neglect of your letter of the 8th. I delayed the application for your appointment, the Governor being absent from the Capital. It will go in to-morrow, and I doubt not you will find a notice of your appointment on your arrival at San Francisco.

Allow me to congratulate you upon your successful close of your labors as Secretary to the Board of Commissioners, and also for your other good fortunes at San Francisco, and to hope that the same may still be your companion on your return to California.

It is possible I may be of service to you in the matter of appointments as commissioner of deeds, &c., in some of the northern States; if so, I shall be well pleased.

On your arrival in San Francisco, I shall be pleased if you will drop me a line, giving me such general information respecting affairs there as you may suppose will be interesting to me.

I am, respectfully and * * * * * * * * * *, yours,
CHARLES GILMAN.

No. 8.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, *March* 30, 1857.

GEORGE FISHER, ESQ'R.

SIR: I am directed by his Excellency, the Governor of the State of Mississippi, to enclose you a commission, prepared in conformity with the acts of the legislature of this State, to authorize the appointment of commissioners in other States, approved 18th February, 1846, and March 12th, 1852.

A copy of said acts is subjoined.

Your attention is directed to their provisions, and you are requested to comply with them.

Your commission will continue until March 30, 1859.*

A. B. DILWORTH, *Sec'y of State.*

Fees $2 50. Please remit by mail, with oath.

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* Dated 30th March, 1857.

No. 9.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,
MONTGOMERY, ALA., *April* 6, 1857.

DEAR SIR: Enclosed you will please find a commission for Mr. George Fisher, to take acknowledgments of deeds, &c, &c., in the State of California, to be used in this State.

Mr. Fisher will please enclose his oath of office, which has to be filed in this office before his acts are valid.

Also the fee in such cases, $5 00, and oblige,

Very respectfully,
Your ob't ser't,
J. H. WEAVER, *Sec'y of State.*

J. H. CALDWELL, ESQ'R, *New Orleans, La.*

*Dated 6th April, 1857, during the pleasure of the Governor.—Signed, JOHN A. WINSTON, *Gov'r.*

No. 10.

A commission issued by the Governor of the State of Louisiana, ROBERT C. WICKLIFFE, dated 19th March, 1857, and countersigned by A. Duplantier, Assistant Secretary of State. Duration, without limit.

No. 11.

SUPREME COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS.

I, William Fairfax Gray, clerk of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Texas, do hereby certify, that George Fisher, of the county of Harris, was admitted and qualified as an attorney and counsellor of said Supreme Court of the Republic of Texas, on the twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty, and of the Independence of the Republic of Texas the fourth.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Supreme Court, at the city of Austin, this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty.

[L. S.]

W. F. GRAY, *Clerk Sup. Ct. R. of T.*

NOTE.—The official signature of W. F. Gray is attested by the Hon. John Hemphill, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Texas, and the Chief Justice's signature is authenticated by the Governor, under the great seal of the State of Texas, on September 9, 1856.